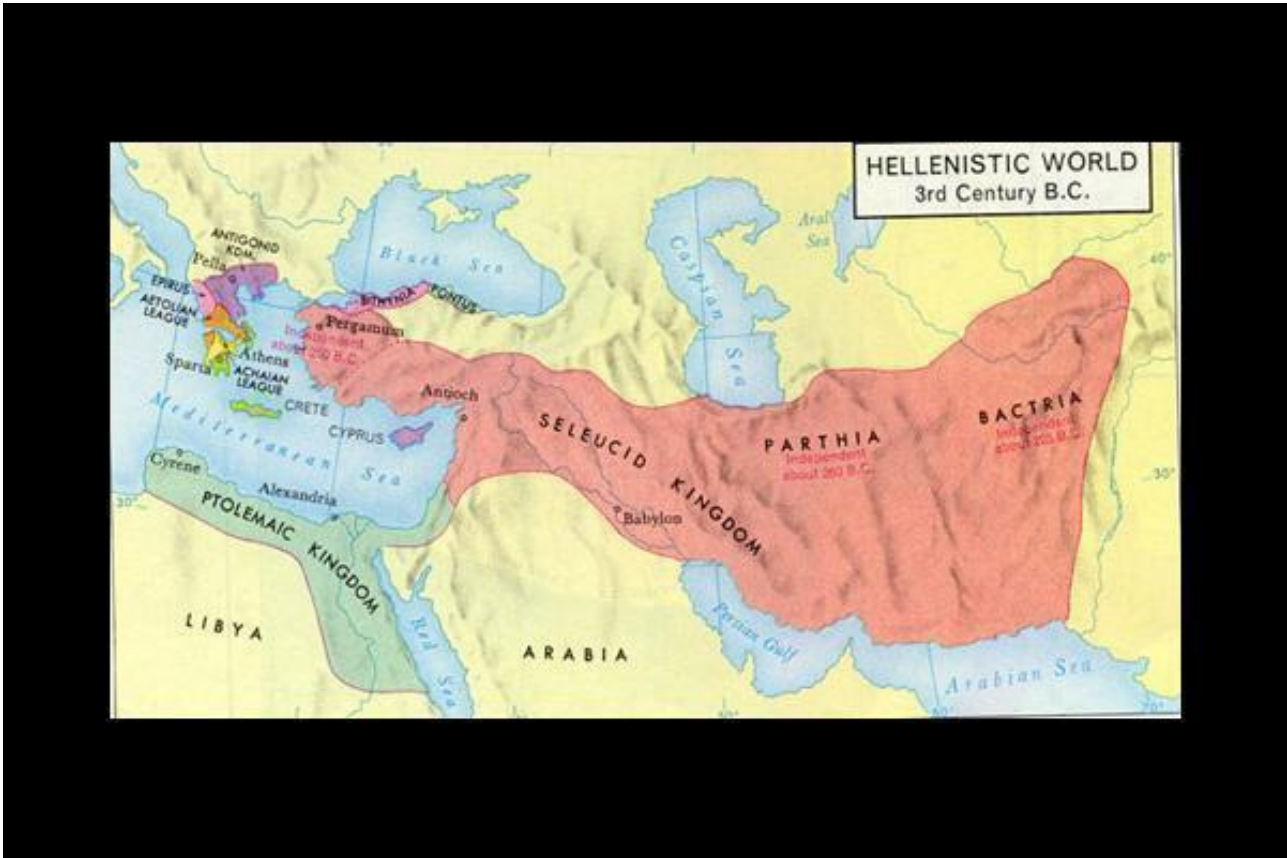


The Second Witness 9/19/2015

9/19/2015

Volume 1, Issue 6



In this issue:

- Daniel's 70 Weeks and the Problems of the 70th Week
- Fundamentals of End Time Prophecy:
Q&A #5: What is Millennialism?
- A Few Housekeeping Items
- Today's Hot Links

Above: Map of the Seleucid Empire of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the Antichrist of Daniel 11.

Note: Please remember to tag this newsletter so that it goes to your "Inbox" and not Spam or "Promotions."

It is our plan to publish two to four times per month. An archive of past issues is available [here](#).

Daniel’s 70 Weeks and the Problem of the 70th Week

(The “weeks” of Daniel are years, not days.)

A common belief among mainstream Christians is that the last days tribulation will last seven years and be preceded by the rapture of the church and the signing of some form of seven year peace treaty.

There are several problems with this doctrine, not the least of which is the sole proof text used to support the notion of a “seven year tribulation” and a “peace treaty.” That text is Daniel 9:24-27:

24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

While this passage accurately prophesies the timing of the first coming of the Messiah and addresses the future second coming, the text does not state that there will be a seven year tribulation or that it will begin with a peace treaty. Those conclusions are derived from the speculation of various prophecy teachers of the past, which are repeated as dogma by their current adherents. Granted, the seven year peace treaty is a plausible theory, but it is not the only one.

It is equally plausible that the entire 70 weeks of Daniel was completed at the first coming of Christ, and the pattern of the 70th week will be repeated in the last days. I will address this alternative and the phenomenon of repeating Biblical patterns below.

It is also plausible that it is Christ, not the Antichrist who "confirms a covenant with many:" the Covenant of God with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

As I read the passage carefully I see that v 25 says that 69 weeks lead up to the coming of the Messiah:

"unto Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks."

In my view that countdown leads up to but does not include His first advent. It's like saying "33 more shopping days until Christmas." Christmas is not included in the 33 days.

Verse 26 appears to support this by saying:

"AFTER threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off."

In other words, the cutting off of the Messiah occurs IN the 70th week. It doesn't say "in the 69th week," it says "after." That precludes a 70th week being projected into the future even if just one day of it is in sequence with the 69th week.

The rest of verse 26 (26b) are events that occur after the 69 weeks as well. I believe it is talking about the destruction of the Temple by Titus in 70AD. I think v26b is parenthetical, meaning it is stated as a side-comment. In other words, we should read it like this:

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself (and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a

flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.)

I view v27 as picking up from 26a:

"And he [Messiah] shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week [He] shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease..."

This was precisely what Jesus came to do. He came to confirm the covenant made by Yahweh to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, and in the midst of the week he was "cut off" by the Jewish and Roman authorities, who crucified Him. In that "cutting off" He voluntarily became the Passover "lamb" whose sacrifice ended/fulfilled the purpose of that ritual. It's a perfect logical fit.

The rest of v27 reads (with my annotations in brackets):

"and for [because of] the overspreading of abominations he [Messiah] shall make desolate, even until the consummation [of the end of the age], [when] that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.[ie those or him whose abominations have caused the desolation]"

This is exactly the curse the Jesus pronounced in Matt 23:38-39:

"Behold, your house [House/Kingdom of Judah] is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Just before His arrest, Jesus pronounced this curse on the Jews (which was partially fulfilled in 70AD with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple, and fully so in 135AD following the Simon bar Kokhba revolt which caused the Roman authorities to permanently banish all Jews from the land -- a ban/desolation that endured until the Balfour Declaration of the British Empire in 1917). HE is the one who makes desolate. This is the same desolation enacted by God to cleanse the land of Hebrew sin when He sent them into exile in Babylon for 70 years.

God, Not Antichrist, is the One Who Makes Desolate

Abominations cause desolations, but God is the one who enacts them.

Leviticus 26: 27 *"And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me...I will make your cities waste, and bring your sanctuaries unto desolation...32And I will bring the land into desolation: and your enemies which dwell therein shall be astonished at it. 33And I will scatter you among the heathen, and will draw out a sword after you: and your land shall be desolate, and your cities waste. 34Then shall the land enjoy her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye be in your enemies' land; even then shall the land rest, and enjoy her sabbaths. 35As long as it lieth desolate it shall rest; because it did not rest in your sabbaths, when ye dwelt upon it."*

Isaiah 24:1 *"Behold, the LORD maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down, and scattereth abroad the inhabitants thereof."*

Ezekiel 33:28 *"For I [Yahweh] will lay the land most desolate, and the pomp of her strength shall cease; and the mountains of Israel shall be desolate, that none shall pass through."*

Seven Years or Three and One Half?

In the mainstream view, Daniel's 70th week is unfulfilled and projected some 2,000 years into the future, soon to begin in these last days. As I've said, it is a plausible theory, and one that is NOT defeated by

the gap of two millennia. There are other Biblical examples of a time lapse in the fulfillment of prophecy, most importantly the gap implied by Jesus Himself in His reading of Isaiah 6: 1-2 in the synagogue:

“1The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; 2To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God...”

As recorded in Luke 4:16-21, Jesus read only through the verse 2a and closed the book because He was literally fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah 6:1-2a, but 2b, *“the day of vengeance of our God”* would not occur for 2,000 years until His second coming.

Importantly, this reading was an announcement of the Jubilee Year and (by some accounts) His first act of ministry (immediately following His testing by Satan in the wilderness). Look for the Antichrist, the counterfeit messiah, to possibly follow this pattern of declaring a Jubilee at the start of his reign.

Getting back to our question in this section, it does not necessarily follow, however, that the full seven years of the 70th “week” are waiting to be fulfilled. It may be that only the “half week” (3 ½ years) is unfulfilled. As we have conjectured above *“after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself...and in the midst of the [70th] week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease.”* If this alternative view is correct, and the projecting of an unfulfilled portion of the prophecy into the future is also correct, the reign of the Antichrist could be just three and one half years, not seven years.

Interestingly, there is no mention of a seven year reign of the Antichrist in Revelation, only three and one half years (see Revelation 11:2, 12:6, 12:14, 13:5).

That having been said, I tend to believe that the Antichrist probably will reign a full seven years, and his reign may very well begin with a peace treaty. However, I don’t expect it to comport with the details of Daniel 9:24-27 as closely as other prophecy teachers do, because I believe the Daniel 9 iteration of the Daniel pattern (all 70 weeks of it) was finished in sequence with no gap.

The Completion of the 70th Week

After Jesus was “cut off” in the “middle of the week,” the Apostles, whom Jesus trained to “do even greater works” than He, picked up the mantle of His authority and went out to continue the mission of Christ TO THE HEBREWS ONLY. For the remainder of that 70th week they made their best effort, but the Jews then hired Saul to stop the advance of the church. At the end of the “week” the first martyr of the church, Stephen, is killed by a mob as young Saul looked on, but not before Stephen delivers a final indictment of the Jews (Acts 7). He is essentially closing the door to the corporate House of Judah in fulfillment of the curse of Jesus in Matthew 23.

Saul then became Paul, Apostle to the Gentiles, and at the close of the 70th week the primary mission of the church shifted as the Age of the Gentiles began (Romans 11), and the curse of Jesus began to unfold upon the Jews, culminating in the short term with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple and eventually in their banishment from the Holy Land for more than 17 centuries.

In this way, Daniel’s 70th week can be considered to have been concluded, yet I believe it may soon be repeated prior to the return of Christ.

How can Daniel 9:27 be fulfilled and unfulfilled at the same time? both things be true?

The Repeating Pattern of the Desecration of Jerusalem

The flaw in the traditional view is that it attempts to compress three separate versions of the Daniel prophecy into one, rather than recognizing they are intended to describe three iterations of the same pattern, with three distinct Antichrist figures, three distinct “deliverer” figures, three distinct historical settings of the City of Jerusalem, and three distinct abominations that cause desolation.

Daniel 9:24-27

This is actually the second iteration of the Desecration of Jerusalem Pattern, chronologically, though first in order in the text.

The Antichrist figure is the Roman General Titus, later to become Emperor Titus. The deliverer figure is Yeshua Hamashiach (Jesus Christ). And the setting is the City of Jerusalem in the last generation before the destruction of the Second Temple (which could arguably be called the Third Temple because it had been so dramatically enlarged by the wicked King Herod -- an Edomite convert to Judaism).

The abomination that causes desolation (A of D) could be the rejection of the Messiah by the Jewish religious authorities despite His personal presence and appeal to them through signs and wonders, and through reasoning from the scriptures. If so, the desolation was decreed by Christ in Matthew 23: 37-38, and (in relation to the temple) was carried out by Titus in 70AD. According to Philostratus, Titus refused to accept a wreath of victory for that campaign, saying he was merely the instrument of God's wrath on the Jews.#

Alternately, and perhaps more likely, the A of D could have been the erection of a statue of Roman Emperor Caligula in the Temple in Jerusalem in AD 40.# Caligula was a definite Antichrist figure who, like Antiochus IV Epiphanes, claimed to be a god and hated the Jews for their monotheism.

Daniel 11:29-45

This iteration was the first in order of fulfillment, but second in order in the text. The Antichrist figure is Antiochus IV Epiphanes, King of the Seleucid Empire, headquartered in Babylon. The deliverer figure is Judah Maccabee (Judah the Hammer), founder of the Hasmonean Dynasty of Hebrew Kings (which ended a century later with a slaughter of the royal family by the Roman-backed usurper Herod the Great). The setting is the City of Jerusalem in 167BC and the Second Temple.

Antiochus corrupted the priests with flattery and the Jewish youths with homosexuality then defiled the temple with pigs blood in an attempt to force the Jews to abandon their exclusive worship of Yahweh and embrace the polytheism of his empire in which he declared himself to be the “epiphanes,” “The Manifest God.”

It is believed by scholars that the Abomination of Desolation of Daniel 11:31 was a bust of Antiochus himself, placed on the Altar of God. The brief period of desolation lasted until the Temple was cleansed in a ritual which is today commemorated as Hannukah. (Regarding these events, the historical record of Daniel 11 is supplemented by the Apocryphal books of 1 & 2 Maccabees, which do not have the authority of scripture but nonetheless offer a highly reliable account).

Daniel 12:1-4

The third iteration of the Desecration of Jerusalem Pattern is yet to come. The Antichrist figure will be the end-time Antichrist. The deliverer will again be Jesus Christ. The setting will be the City of

Jerusalem during the reign of the Antichrist, and either a rebuilt Third Temple, or possibly just the altar (for which we see a precedent in Ezra 3:1-6). The Abomination of Desolation is not clearly identified, but could very well be some artifact that depicts the Antichrist as God, set up on the altar.

Importantly, there are numerous elements to of the prior two iterations of the pattern which may or not be present in the end-time iteration. For example, much attention is given by prior prophecy teachers to the actions of the “King of the North” and “King of the South” in their predictions about the end-times Antichrist. They may be correct, but it is also possible that those elements were unique to the first iteration, as indeed they precisely describe the people and events of Antiochus’s time. Might they be repeated identically in the third iteration? Yes. Must they be? Not in my opinion.

Unique to the Daniel 12 iteration is the reference to “a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time” (v. 1), a warning restated and expanded upon by Jesus in the Olivet Discourse: “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matthew 24:21-22). That time is clearly still in the future.

The Repeating Pattern of Passover

By way of reinforcing my hypothesis about God’s use of repeating patterns with common elements but with varying contexts and manifestations, lets look a second more familiar example, that of the Passover story. Again, there are three iterations, and several common elements in each: A father, a first-born son, the sacrifice of a lamb, and an object on which the sacrifice was given effect.

Genesis 22:1-13

The first iteration of this Biblical pattern was near-sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham. Abraham was the father ready to sacrifice his first-born son on the command of God. At the last moment God Himself provided a substitutionary sacrifice in the form of a sheep. The sheep, instead of Isaac, had his blood shed upon an altar.

Exodus 12:1-13

The second iteration of the Passover Pattern is found in Exodus 12. All the firstborn males of the land were to be killed by God as punishment for Pharaoh’s slaughter of the firstborn of the Hebrews during the infancy of Moses. “Every firstborn son in Egypt will die, from the firstborn son of Pharaoh, who sits on the throne, to the firstborn son of the female slave, who is at her hand mill, and all the firstborn of the cattle as well” (Exodus 11:5).

Only those households displaying the blood of a sacrificial lamb on the lintels and doorposts of their homes are spared.

The father figure is Pharaoh, and his firstborn son is the first to suffer God’s wrath. The sheep is a one-year-old male. The object on which the sacrificial blood is given effect is the doorframe of the house.

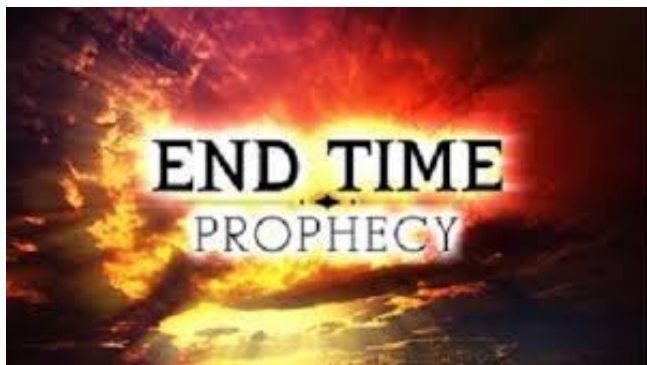
The Gospels

The third iteration is found in each of the four gospels, in the story of the crucifixion of Christ, which occurred, literally, on Passover, immediately preceding the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Leviticus 23:4-6).

“Clean out the old leaven so that you may be a new lump, just as you are in fact unleavened. For Christ our Passover also has been sacrificed” (1 Corinthians 5:7).

The Passover Pattern was completed in the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. God the Father gave His Only Son (John 3:16). The Father is God. The son is Christ. The lamb is Christ. The object on which His shed blood was given effect was the cross.

So we can see that God uses thematic patterns in the Bible to describe actual events of history, and that the iterations of these patterns, though they share common thematic elements, are each unique. This fact informs my view that Daniel’s 70th Week was completed at the first coming of Christ, but will likely be repeated in a similar but unique manner at His second coming.



Fundamentals of End-Time Prophecy

Eschatology 101A

A Certificate Program of Redemption Gate Bible College

In the Spring of 2015, I developed a 5-week class on prophecy for Redemption Gate Bible College. This newsletter will feature the material from that class over the next year as I work to refine and strengthen it for use as a correspondence course. To that end I solicit your input.

The original course featured 35 questions (seven in each class session) which were asked and answered during an interactive discussion period.

We will address one or more of those (and likely additional) questions each week in this segment of the newsletter.

Session 1: The Context for Understanding Prophecy

(Questions 5 of 7)

5. What is Millennialism?

“Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

"Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their forehead and on their hand; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years”

(Revelation 20:1-4).

“And Jesus said to them, ‘Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel’” (Matthew 19:28).

Millennialism, the Latin version of the Greek word “Chiliasm” is the belief held by the early church and many modern believers (including this writer) that the total lifespan of God’s creation is not billions of years, but only seven thousand. Each millennium, or period of one thousand years, corresponds to a 24-hour day in the creation of the world of Genesis 1-2:3, with the last millennium being reserved for the Sabbath, the one thousand year reign of Christ, during which time the earth will enjoy the *“restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began”* (Acts 3:21).

“For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it” Exodus 20:11

Millennialism rests on what is called the Day/Age Formula: One day is 1,000 years. Seven Days = 7,000 years. There are two witnesses in scripture to this formula:

II Peter 3:8 states *“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”*

And Psalm 90:4 states *“For a thousand years in thy sight are but as yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night.”*

The apocryphal Book of Jubilees 4:29 adds this very interesting comment:

“And at the close of the Nineteenth Jubilee, in the seventh week in the sixth year thereof Adam died, and all his sons buried him in the land of his creation, and he was the first to be buried on the earth. And he lacked seventy years of one thousand years; of one thousand years are as one day in the testimony of the heavens and therefore was it written concerning the tree of knowledge: “On the day ye eat thereof ye shall die.” For this reason he did not complete the years of this day; for he died during it.”

The Babylonian Talmud similarly divides history into three ages of 2 000 years: an age of chaos; an age of order under Law (Torah), and the age of the Messiah, followed by a thousand year day of rest.

In the millennial view, humanity is very close to the end of the six thousand years of man, and the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom.

In the Millennial Kingdom the earth will be restored nearly to the perfection of the Garden of Eden, as described in Isaiah 11:6-9

“And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, Their young will lie down together, And the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, And the weaned child will put his hand on the viper’s den. They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.”

What then is millennialism? Our preferred answer is:

The belief in a literal 7,000 year creation in which we are rapidly nearing the final 1000-year reign of

Christ.

A Few Housekeeping Items

I am pretty-much a one-man show and run two highly active ministry organizations. Because I maximize my time to achieve the greatest impact possible for the Kingdom of God, I value straight-to-the-point resources and communications. If you desire to communicate with me on any matter including this newsletter please be as concise as possible and please use email, not the telephone, even if you have my phone number (except in emergencies).

You may reach me at scottlivelyministries@gmail.com

Donations

I have always followed a policy of providing my writings and other self-created resources without charge whenever possible. However, my support, and that of both of the ministry organizations I run, rely upon donations to operate. For all matters related to my prophecy studies and writings donations should be sent to Redemption Gate Mission Society, PO Box 2373, Springfield, MA 01101 or online [here](#). If you want your donation to be designated for any specific purpose, just send me a note or an email to say so, otherwise it will be used where most needed.

.

Today's Hot Links:

Apparently our links haven't been working, so henceforth we will simply cut and past the url below. It won't connect just type it into your own browser:

A Summary of the Millennial Kingdom: <http://www.biblestudytools.com/commentaries/revelation/related-topics/summary-of-the-millennial-kingdom.html>

Pope to Advance Globalist Agenda at the UN on Yom Kippur

<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2015-06-18/pope-francis-calls-new-global-political-authority-save-humanity>