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Daniel's 70 Weeks: Review, 9:24-26a; Church Age a Hypothetical to OT Prophets; Jewish Rejection of Jesus Causes Plan B to Supersede Plan A

The second half of verse 26 is where things get dicey and has been a source of great confusion and controversy:

Daniel 9:26b - And the <u>people</u> of the <u>prince who is to come</u> <u>shall destroy</u> the city and the <u>sanctuary</u>. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.

- Who is the prince who is to come? The Messiah is crucified at the end of the sixty-ninth week. The "prince who will come" cannot refer to the Second Advent of Christ. He will not destroy the city or the sanctuary. So, who's the prince?
- 24. First of all it must be remembered that Old Testament writers were not allowed to know about the Church Age. In fact, Plan *A* was operational during this period of history all the way into the Incarnation when the Lord switched over to Plan *B*.
- 25. Plan *B* is the Church Age which could not become operational until Israel historically rejected the offer of the kingdom by Messiah. Consequently, Gabriel could not mention it since prophecy does not deal in hypotheticals and Daniel didn't have a need to know.
- 26. God in His omniscience knows the end from the beginning. He knew in eternity past that there would be a gap between the sixty-ninth and seventieth weeks. But He graciously kept this fact from the Jews so that they would have an objective opportunity to follow the Messiah into the kingdom at His Second Advent.
- 27. For example, if the Jews had expressed positive volition toward the Messiah Savior rather than the Messiah King then there would be no gap between the sixty-ninth and seventieth weeks. He would have been crucified by Rome as a traitor and following His subsequent resurrection, the seventieth week would have commenced.
- 28. After seven years of Tribulation, the Second Advent would have occurred and the millennial kingdom would have begun. This means that the Millennium would have run its course around A.D. 1036, the universe would have been destroyed, the Great White Throne Judgment would have been completed, the Angelic Conflict would be over, and the New Heavens and New Earth would be up and running. Incredibly this is exactly what the Preterist Movement asserts *did* happen.
- 29. But such is not the case. Plan *B* did go into effect and it is intercalated between Daniel 9:26*a* and 9:26*b*. It is called the dispensation of the Church.
- 30. Therefore, as we look at Daniel 9:26 we can see four dispensations: Israel, the Incarnation, the Church Age, and the Tribulation. The Incarnation of Christ as a dispensation runs superjacent with the final years of the dispensation of Israel. The Church is intercalated into the middle of the verse. The Tribulation is referenced by the "prince who is to come"—the Antichrist of the Tribulation.
- The citizenship of the "prince who is to come" is revealed by learning who the "people" are that will "destroy the city and the sanctuary"?
- 32. The fulfillment of Daniel's prophecy is the siege of Jerusalem that occurred from A.D. 67-70.