

The Revelation of the Seventy Weeks – Review

Introduction

Pastor Brian Donovan of the Bible Baptist Church, Pensacola, Florida, has written a most informative 58-page booklet entitled *The Revelation of the Seventy Weeks*. Pastor Donovan's main conclusion from his work is that what is commonly known as Daniel's 70th Week of seven years alluded to in Daniel 9:26-27 has only three and a half years left to run, and as prophetic 360-day years not calendar years of 365 days. Pastor Donovan concludes that the first three and a half years of Daniel's 70th Week were fulfilled as calendar years during the Lord's baptism and subsequent death and resurrection, Matthew 3:16-17, 27:35-50, 53, 28:1-10.

This writer would strongly recommend Pastor Donovan's booklet for its detailed analysis of the doctrine of Daniel's 70 weeks, especially Daniel's 70th Week and its numerous points of enlightenment that will be addressed directly below. Concerning Pastor Donovan's main conclusion about how much of Daniel's 70th Week has still to elapse this writer differs from Pastor Donovan's conclusion by means of certain caveats with scriptural support that in this writer's view should be raised.

Those additional considerations are the central theme of this review, after the manner, it is hoped, of Proverbs 27:17 "**Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.**"

70th Week - Unequivocal Agreement

Pastor's Donovan's booklet contains these items with which this writer agrees, with page references.

- Calendar years of 365 days should be used for *most* of Daniel's 70 weeks not 360-day prophetic years, pp 10-11. See next bullet point.
- The Lord will return the world to a 30-day month 360-day year in the tribulation as it was in Noah's time. This time frame becomes that for the Antichrist's rule of 42 months or 1260 days and "**great tribulation**" Revelation 7:14, the last half of Daniel's 70th Week, Genesis 7:11, 8:4, Matthew 24 21-22, Luke 17:26, Revelation 11:2-3, 12:6, 14, 13:5, pp 11-13, 32, 49, 54-57.
- A concise literature survey of extant studies on Daniel's 70 weeks by Anderson, Bullinger, Larkin, Scofield et al reveal that the supposed error in the calendar of 4 years accepted verbatim by those writers is itself an error, pp 13-24.
- The supposed 4-year error in the calendar was introduced by the unregenerate astrologer and astronomer Johannes Kepler, pp 13-14 and should therefore be seen as invalid.
- Kepler murdered the Bible-believing astronomer Tycho Brahe in order to steal the results of his work and his position as chief astronomer, pp 13-14.
- The star of Bethlehem was *not* a planetary conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, p 14.
- Statements of support for *genuine* science versus "**oppositions of science falsely so called**" 1 Timothy 6:20 are given with respect to the speed of light decreasing instead of being constant as Einstein assumed and geocentricity as the Biblical and actual representation for the motions of planets and stars etc. instead of heliocentricity, devised by unsaved Bible rejecters attempting to discredit the Holy Bible, pp 17-18.
- The division between seven and sixty-two weeks of Daniel's 70 weeks highlights the closure of the Old Testament canon forty-nine years after "**the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem**" Daniel 9:24 that was the starting point of Daniel's 70 weeks, p 37.
- Revelation 14:20 occurs with the effusion of blood down the Great Rift Valley, p 56. See this writer's note **The Great Rift Valley**.
- *Saved* individuals are rebuked who dismiss in-depth study of Daniel's 70 weeks as unimportant because it is not of practical significance to them and won't matter in eternity – this writer has heard that view preached about differing approaches to the scriptures on the Lord's Return - p 58.

Such a view is a direct violation of 2 Timothy 2:15 “*Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*”

Split 70th Week – Scriptural Indicators

Note that this writer agrees with Pastor Donovan’s scriptural analyses and related comments concerning a split 70th Week – that term is taken from Dr Ruckman’s commentary *The Book of Daniel* p 279. The main point of difference, not disagreement, between Pastor Donovan and this writer is with respect to Pastor Donovan’s hard and fast conclusion as the ***Introduction*** indicates that the Lord’s earthly ministry split Daniel’s 70th Week so that only the last half of it is left to run. This writer has concluded that additional scriptures allow for a full 70th Week with no violation of the scriptures that Pastor Donovan cites. Pastor Donovan’s salient points from his booklet for a split 70th Week - with which this writer largely agrees - are as follows, with page references for the booklet.

- The precise application of the word “***after***” in Daniel 9:26 is key to determining how much of Daniel’s 70th has still to run, p 18.
- The only time period with respect to the End Times after the rapture of the Church that the scriptures specifically mention is three and a half years, never seven years, Revelation 11:2-3, 12:6, 14, 13:5, pp 19-24, 32-33.
- A three and a half year gap exists between the anointing of “***the most Holy***” Daniel 9:24, namely at the Lord’s baptism, Matthew 3:16-17, Luke 3:21-22, Acts 10:38 and His cutting off or crucifixion at the time of the Passover, Daniel 9:26, Matthew 26:2, 27:35, pp 21-24.
- A three and a half years of peace under the initial rule of the antichrist set out by earlier writers such as Anderson, Bullinger, Larkin, Walvoord is not scriptural and nullifies Job “***upon the ground seven days and seven nights***” Job 2:13 as a type for Daniel’s 70th Week, pp 33-35, 39.
- The covenant of Daniel 9:27 is God’s land grant to Abraham, Genesis 12:7, 15:18, 17:1-8 and is confirmed by Judas as an apostle by means of signs and wonders during the Lord’s earthly ministry. Judas broke that covenant after his three and a half years with the Lord i.e. in the middle of Daniel’s 70th Week according to Pastor Donovan’s analysis when Judas betrayed the Lord, Matthew 10:1-8, 26:14-15, pp 40-42.
- The resurrected Judas as the antichrist “***peaceably***” confirms but then breaks God’s Abrahamic covenant with Israel “***in the midst of the week***” Daniel 9:27, 11:24, 27, Matthew 24:15, John 17:12, 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 9, Revelation 13:1, 17:8 i.e. at the start of the second half of Daniel’s 70th Week that is yet future. His confirmation of the covenant for one week i.e. seven years is in reality deception to “***speak lies at one table***” Daniel 11:27, pp 40, 42-43, 48. See note later with respect to Pastor Donovan comments on p 48 of his study, from which this writer differs.
- The contexts of other time frames prophesied of 2300, 1290, 1335 days, Daniel 8:13-14, 12:11, 12 show that they do not conflict with 1260 days or 42 months of the Antichrist’s rule, pp 52-57.

Pastor Donovan therefore reasonably concludes that the statement “*...after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself*” Daniel 9:26 should be read as “***immediately after***” Matthew 24:29 62½ weeks of years i.e. 69½ weeks of years in total “*shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself.*”

It should be noted that Pastor Donovan places the rapture of the Church at a Passover of unspecified year, pp 45, 49. The rapture of the Church is beyond the scope of this review but this writer would place it as the *second* stage of the Lord’s *threefold* harvest of His saints at Pentecost, Passover having been the *first* stage, with the *third* stage at the end of the tribulation. See the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 309, 911-912, 1294, 1557, 1660 on Deuteronomy 16:16, Song of Solomon 2:13, Matthew 27:52, Ephesians 4:9, Revelation 14:14-16.

Full 70th Week – Scriptural Indicators

Scriptural indicators that point to a full 70th Week are as follows.

“All the days of his separation he is holy unto the LORD. And if any man die very suddenly by him, and he hath defiled the head of his consecration; then he shall shave his head in the day of his cleansing, on the seventh day shall he shave it..And he shall consecrate unto the LORD the days of his separation, and shall bring a lamb of the first year for a trespass offering: but the days that were before shall be lost, because his separation was defiled. And this is the law of the Nazarite, when the days of his separation are fulfilled: he shall be brought unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: And he shall offer his offering unto the LORD, one he lamb of the first year without blemish for a burnt offering, and one ewe lamb of the first year without blemish for a sin offering, and one ram without blemish for peace offerings” Numbers 6:8-9, 12-14.

“Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost” Matthew 27:50.

“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

“Christ Jesus...being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross” Philippians 2:5, 8.

“For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens” Hebrews 7:26.

“For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us...now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself” Hebrews 9:24, 26.

“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God” Revelation 21:3.

The salient features from those scriptures are as follows.

- The Nazarite is **“holy unto the LORD”** as is the Lord Jesus Christ, Numbers 6:8 with Hebrews 7:26.
- The Nazarite was defiled if a man died suddenly beside him, the Lord Jesus Christ died abruptly on the cross and **“he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin,”** Numbers 6:9 with Matthew 27:50, 2 Corinthians 5:21.
- The Nazarite had to shave his head in humble subjection to **“the law of the Nazarite”** Numbers 6:13 after being defiled, the Lord Jesus Christ was humbled to **“the death of the cross,”** Numbers 6:9 with Philippians 2:5, 8.
- The Nazarite **“shall be brought unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation,”** the Lord Jesus Christ is **“now to appear in the presence of God for us”** in **“the tabernacle of God,”** Numbers 6:13 with Hebrews 9:24, Revelation 21:3.
- The Nazarite had to offer sacrifices, the Lord Jesus Christ **“put away sin by the sacrifice of himself”** Numbers 6:12, 14 with Hebrews 9:26.

The Nazarite of Numbers 6:8-14 is not exactly equivalent to the Lord Jesus Christ but enough similarities exist for this writer to draw attention to Numbers 6:12 **“the days that were before shall be lost, because his separation was defiled”** with Matthew 3:16-17 **“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”**

Matthew 3:16, 17 reveal the Lord's separation unto God for His earthly ministry or anointing as Pastor Donovan states. See reference to Daniel 9:24 above.

This writer would agree with Pastor Donovan that by the time of the Lord's crucifixion 69½ weeks of years of Daniel's 70 weeks had elapsed. However Numbers 6:8-9, 12-14, Matthew 3:16-17, 27:50, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Philippians 2:5, 8, Hebrews 7:26, 9:24, 26, Revelation 21:3 with emphasis on Numbers 6:12 "***the days that were before shall be lost, because his separation was defiled***" taken together point not only to a hiatus in the course of Daniel's 70 weeks *but that the first half of Daniel's 70 Week was lost via the crucifixion so that the full seven years of Daniel's 70th Week – consisting of half calendar years and half prophetic years – have still to run.*

Note that the reading of Daniel 9:26 "...***after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself***" is unaffected by that conclusion. Certain implications follow nevertheless.

- Revelation 6:1-8 unfold as set out in Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Revelation* pp 134-146 and even if not explicitly stated as such cover the first 3-4 years of Daniel's 70th Week i.e. most likely overlapping with the onset of the antichrist's rule of 42 months, Revelation 13:5.
- Revelation 6:1-8 do not depict a time of peace. However the fourth year of Daniel's 70th Week as the antichrist exerts worldwide power may, like the eye of a hurricane, be the End Times fulfilment of 1 Thessalonians 5:3 "***For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.***"
- The antichrist "***shall confirm the covenant with many for one week***" Daniel 9:27 i.e. the Abrahamic covenant as Pastor Donovan notes pp 40-42 of his study but then break it "***in the midst of the week.***" i.e. three and a half years later. That seems to match Judas' three and a half years of ministry with the Lord before his betrayal of the Lord. See bullet point under ***Split 70th Week – Scriptural Indicators*** as follows:

The covenant of Daniel 9:27 is God's land grant to Abraham, Genesis 12:7, 15:18, 17:1-8 and is confirmed by Judas as an apostle by means of signs and wonders during the Lord's earthly ministry. Judas broke that covenant after his three and a half years with the Lord i.e. in the middle of Daniel's 70th Week according to Pastor Donovan's analysis when Judas betrayed the Lord, Matthew 10:1-8, 26:14-15, pp 40-42.

Note however that on p 48 of his study, Pastor Donovan refers to the antichrist confirming a covenant with Israel in the year *immediately preceding* the resumption of Daniel's 70th Week which covenant the antichrist breaks "***in the midst of the week.***" That analysis does not seem to fit with Pastor Donovan's analysis on pp 40-42 of his study or with Daniel 9:27 "...***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.***" Daniel 9:27 appears to refer to the i.e. Abrahamic covenant not to a covenant, undefined – though see remarks below with respect to "***a covenant with death, and with hell***" Isaiah 28:15 – and to one week as the week, which this writer takes as Daniel's 70th Week for the reasons given above, not to a one year hiatus before the resumption of Daniel's actual 70th Week during which hiatus the antichrist projects a time interval of seven years that is altogether separate from Daniel's 70 weeks. That apparent application of Daniel 9:27 on p 48 of Pastor Donovan's study doesn't seem to fit with a straight-forward reading of Daniel 9:27.

- Revelation 6:1-8 followed by the antichrist's rule of 42 months makes Job 2:13 a *realistic* type with Israel being effectively *conquered* for the *whole* of Daniel's 70th Week "***the time of Jacob's trouble***" Jeremiah 30:7 by the antichrist and persecuted by the devil in last half of Daniel's 70th Week, Revelation 12:6, 13-16. Job 2:13 must have some typological significance, likewise the Nazarite of Numbers 6:8-14.

- Judas and Israel's leaders who declared "**We have no king but Caesar**" John 19:15 i.e. the anti-christ covenanted with each other according to Matthew 26:15 "**And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver**" to betray - i.e. the betrayal was *itself* a covenant - the Lord Jesus Christ Who typifies Israel, Hosea 11:1, Matthew 2:15. That *second* covenant foreshadows Israel's leaders at the beginning of the antichrist's 42-month rule who then betray their own nation to save themselves i.e. "**Skin for skin**" Job 2:4 by means of a *separate* covenant with the anti-christ that is "**a covenant with death, and with hell**" Isaiah 28:15 with Revelation 6:8.

The above points appear to fit realistically into a full seven years, even if half-calendar and half-prophetic for Daniel's 70th Week still to run.

Conclusion

This writer believes that when Numbers 6:8-9, 12-14, Matthew 3:16-17, 27:50, 2 Corinthians 5:21, Philippians 2:5, 8, Hebrews 7:26, 9:24, 26, Revelation 21:3 with emphasis on Numbers 6:12 "**the days that were before shall be lost, because his separation was defiled**" are adduced in addition to Pastor Donovan's overall analysis the scripture points strongly to a yet future fulfilment of all of Daniel's 70th Week. As indicated in the **Introduction**, it is hoped nevertheless that these considerations may be viewed according to Proverbs 27:17 "**Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.**"

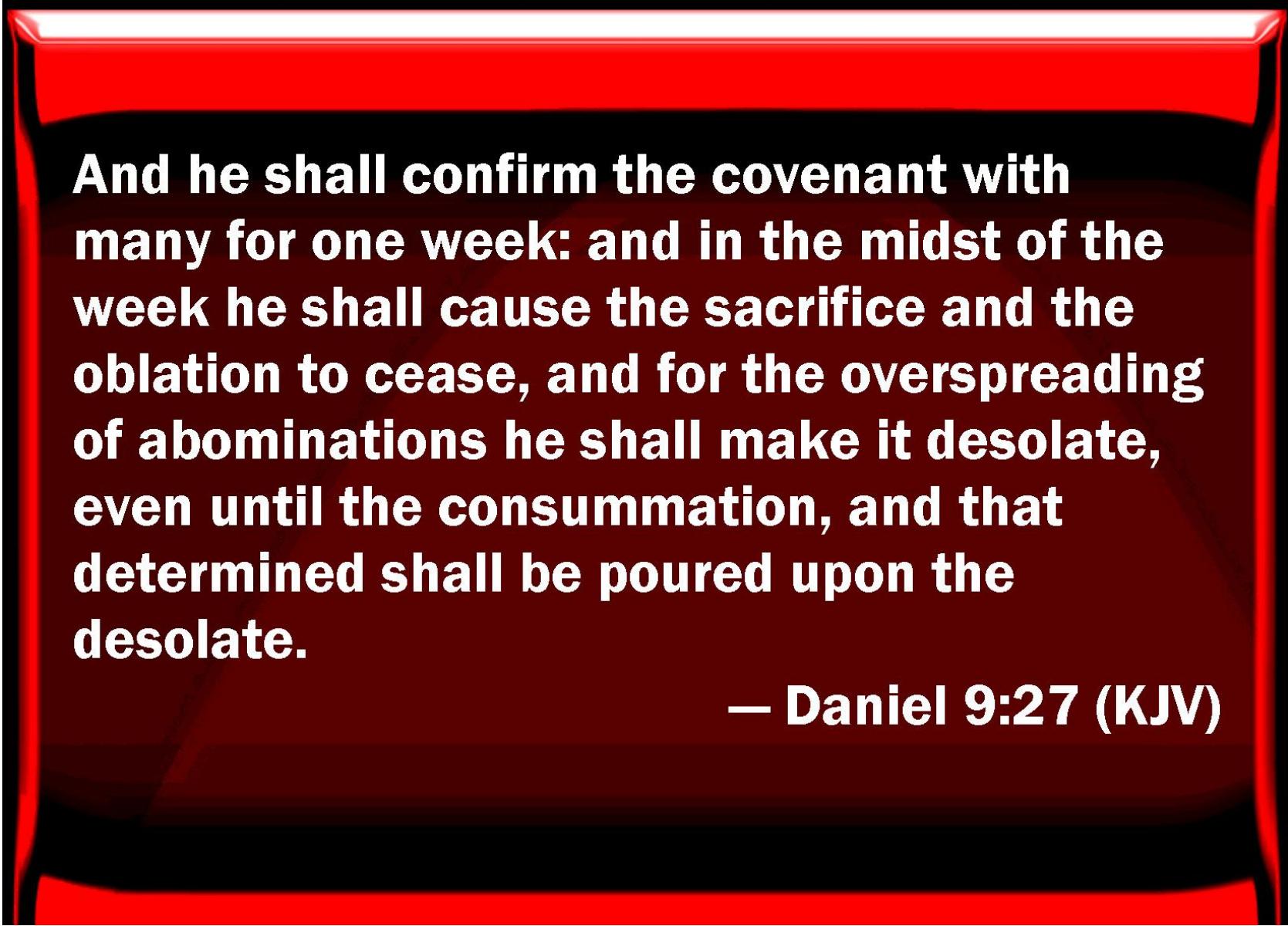
The Great Rift Valley

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Rift_Valley. "**The valley of the shadow of death**" Psalm 23:4 may be the Great Rift Valley that passes through the Jordan Valley and the Dead Sea towards the Gulf of Aqaba and the Red Sea, which 'just happens' to be the area near "**the land of Uz**" where Job was, Job 1:1. It is possible that whatever embodies "**the shadow of death**" may emerge from beneath the Rift Valley via "**a great earthquake**" Revelation 6:12 when its "**doors**" are opened Job 38:17 during the time of "**Jacob's trouble**" and "**great Tribulation**" Jeremiah 30:7, Revelation 7:14. The Lord would then dispel "**the shadow of death**" and shut the doors on any further manifestation of it at the Second Advent. Psalm 23:4 indicates God's protection for His people at that time.

Note that at the time of "**a new heaven and a new earth**" the Lord will shut* "**the gates of death**" forever by means of the restoration of "**the tree of life**" Genesis 2:9, 3:22, 24, Revelation 2:7, 21:1, 22:2, 14. *He will actually have disposed of them in "**the lake of fire...the second death**" Revelation 20:14

Note also that "**the valley of the shadow of death**" had historical significance for David as "**the valley of Elah**" where David fought and killed Goliath, though the giant had vowed to kill him 1 Samuel 17:2-3, 44-51. Devotionally, "**the valley of the shadow of death**" also applies to "**the saints and martyrs of Jesus**" who suffered for the Lord down through the centuries, especially at the hands of Rome and her abominable offspring like Islam, Hebrews 11:35-38, Revelation 17:6, *The Prophet, Alberto Part 6*, Chick Publications, 1988.

It would seem entirely appropriate that as Pastor Donovan notes the Great Rift Valley "**The valley of the shadow of death**" Psalm 23:4 is the conduit for the effusion of blood of Revelation 14:20 "**And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand and six hundred furlongs.**"



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.

— Daniel 9:27 (KJV)