OPEN

Do you realize, my friend, where all this political turmoil is headed? Do you realize why the nations are coming together and trying to solve the problems of terrorism? It's because God is getting us ready for the coming of the Son of man. And what is one of the sure things that has to happen before Jesus Christ will return to earth to reign as king of Kings? There has to be a temple, not the Dome of the Rock but there has to be a temple. I'm standing on the Mount of Olives and you can know this that when you see a temple going up on that platform, you can look up because your redemption draws nigh. The King is on His way. Prophecy's about to be fulfilled.

PART ONE

On the temple mount someday there's going to be another temple, a Jewish temple, a rebuilt temple. It will be what we call the third temple. And it's
into that temple that the abomination of desolation will walk and declare himself to be god. And when that happens you and I can know that there are only three and one half years left before the Messiah comes. Now how can I say that with such confidence? I can say that because when you look at the Scriptures, God gives us signs. God gives us flashing signals that the end is almost here. The end is almost here. Remember in Matthew chapter 24 they wanted to know they asked Jesus, “…what [is the] sign of Your coming, and…the end of the age?” (Matthew 24:3b) And so Jesus tells them what is going to happen in verses about 3 all the way through verse 14. And then He says, “…and then the end [shall] come.” (24:14b) Then He gives them an alert. He gives them a heads up. He says, “Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation…spoken of [by] Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then [flee, let] those who are in Judea…flee [into] the mountains.” (24:15-16) Now watch what He goes on to say in Matthew chapter 24 because it's important for you and I to understand these words. He says, “…then [let] those who are in Judea…flee to the mountains. [Let him who] is on the housetop…not go down to get the things that are in his house.” (24:16-17) You can understand that housetop thing because the Middle East has flat roofs and many times they sit up on their flat roofs and they watch what's going on or they have little gardens up there. It says, “But woe to those who are [with child] and to those who [nurse] babes in those days! But pray that your flight [may] not be in the winter, or on a Sabbath.” now listen carefully “For there [shall] be great tribulation…,” a great tribulation, “…such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever [shall].” (24:19-21) Now how long is that tribulation going to take place and what does Jesus mean when He says, “When you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet”? Well let's go back to the book of Daniel. And I want to take you back to Daniel chapter 9. Of all the prophecies in the book of Daniel, Daniel chapter 9 is probably the most significant when it comes to laying out
for us the whole scope and timing of the events that lead to the end. You know Daniel is like the blueprint of prophecy and every event and prophecy fits in to the book of Daniel. You'll find it somewhere in the book of Daniel. And so what I want to do is take you to Daniel chapter 9. In Daniel chapter 9, in verse 24 it says, “Seventy weeks…,” or seventy sevens “…[had] been determined upon [you]…and upon [your] holy city…,” and he says “…and [your] people, to finish the transgression, to make an end [to] sin, to make atonement for iniquity….” (Daniel 9:24a, NASB & KJV mix) Now we're not going to go into all these six things that are going to be accomplished in those seventy sevens right now. Seventy sevens, by the way, seventy times seven is 490 and we believe from understanding the Scriptures that this is 490 years. And so he says within this 490 year framework of time six things are going to happen and among those is atonement for iniquity is going to be made, a covering for sin. When was atonement for iniquity made? It was made when Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, without spot and blemish died on the cross when Jesus was made to be sin for you and me. When He shed His blood to pay for all the sins of the whole world. So within those seventy sevens that he's talking to Daniel about, within those 490 years, atonement for iniquity is going to be accomplished and then he says, “…to bring in everlasting righteousness….” In other words there's going to come a time when there's going to be righteousness and it's going to continue, and continue, and continue and Israel's not going to keep walking right and then sinning, repenting and then sinning. But everlasting righteousness is going to come in. And then he says, “…to seal up [the] vision and prophecy….” In other words it's all going to be fulfilled. And then he says, “…and to anoint…,” and listen very carefully “…the most holy place.” (9:24b) There's going to be an anointing of the most holy place. Now what's the most holy place? The most holy place is the holy of holies. The most holy place is where the Ark of the Covenant would be placed in the temple. And then he says, “So you are to know and discern….” (9:25) It's not just getting the facts
but it's being able to apply those facts, to think through those facts. So he says, “So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks....” (9:25a) Now seven weeks and sixty-two weeks is sixty-nine weeks. He's telling what's going to happen within sixty-nine of those seventy weeks that are determined. Or within 483 years of the 490 years that are going to be determined to accomplish these six things. All right so he says, “…from the…decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince comes…. ”(9:25a) Now when was a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem? That came in 445 BC or as the Jews would say because they don't want to say before Christ because they don't believe that. So they would say BCE, before the common era. So 445 BCE or BC what happened was there was a decree under Artaxerxes who was a king of Persia to enable them to go back and to restore and rebuild, now listen carefully, Jerusalem. This city right here. You see, Jerusalem was destroyed by the Babylonians in 586 BC. There were three sieges of Jerusalem. The first siege of Jerusalem was in 605 BC and that's when Daniel was taken captive. The next one was in 597 BC and that's when Ezekiel and ten thousand were taken captive and you can read about this at the end of Kings. And then in 586 BC was the final siege and destruction of Jerusalem and it happened on Tishah-B'Av. All right? And so both destruction's of the temple in 586 BC and 70 AD which would come much, much later, both happened on the very same month and the very same day. Interesting, isn't it? Well now he's saying after the first destruction then Artaxerxes and you read about this in Nehemiah, in Nehemiah the prophet in chapters 1 and chapters 2 where he gives Nehemiah the supplies and the permission to come back and restore and rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Why? Because those walls had been broken down and for a city to be without walls meant that that city was very, very vulnerable and it was a shame to that city and that people. So the minute that that happens, the year that that happens the clock starts ticking. All right.
The calendar starts turning and you have seven weeks that pass and then you have sixty-two weeks that pass, all of them adding up to 483 years then Messiah, the Prince would come. Now think with me carefully. Remember what I've taught you. Remember in Luke chapter 19 when Jesus comes down this Palm Sunday road. When He enters into this city and He begins to weep over the city because they did not recognize the time of their visitation. In other words, He was Messiah. Four hundred and eighty-three years had passed since the decree by Artaxerxes to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. Messiah the Prince was here. That's what that Scripture showed them. He wants them to look up. He wants them to know that the day is here. God does not keep us in the dark when we are His people. Remember I told you before in Amos, “[“He does nothing but what He reveals it to His prophets, His servants ahead of time.”] (PARAPHRASE Amos 3:7) And so then you have the coming of Messiah. Now watch very carefully what He's going to tell us next because it points to the time of the end.

PART TWO

What we're looking at right now is Daniel chapter 9, verses 24 to 27 so that we can understand what He means when He speaks of the abomination of desolation standing in the holy place. So after 483 years pass from the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem which happened in 445 BC and which is recorded in Nehemiah chapter 1 and chapter 2 then to Messiah the prince that's 483 years later. Now it's important whenever you study the Scriptures to mark time, to watch it very carefully because time lets us know what is happening and when it's happening. It gives us a progression of events. So it says in verse 26 of Daniel chapter 9, “Then after the sixty-two weeks…,” It says, “…Messiah will be cut off and have nothing….“ (Daniel 9:26a) When was Messiah cut off? Messiah was cut off when He was crucified at Golgotha. All right. And it says, “…and the people of the prince who is to come….“ There's another prince, there's another ruler who is to
come. That other prince, that other ruler is the abomination of desolation. Something that still has not yet taken place. And so it says, “…and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary….”(9:26b) What city? It's going to destroy the city of Jerusalem. It's going to destroy the sanctuary. He's talking about what Jesus prophesied in Luke chapter 21 when the city would be besieged and would be destroyed by Titus in 70 AD. So after the seven weeks and the sixty-two weeks, the Messiah, the Prince will be cut off and the city will be destroyed by the people of the prince who is to come. Now watch what it says in Daniel 9, verse 26. “…and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary….” The sanctuary's the temple. “…And its end…,” the cities end “…will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war…;” now listen carefully, “…desolations are determined.”(Daniel 9:26b-c) And then in verse 27 it says, “And he will make a…covenant…” with the people, “…with the many for one week….”(9:27a) This is significant. This is yet to come. There's a gap of time after the 483 years, after the sixty-nine weeks there's a gap of time. This gap of time is the time of the Gentiles. It's the time when God is bringing all the Gentiles into the body of Jesus Christ. Then there is still a seven year period that has to come to pass. There's still one week or seven years that still have to be fulfilled. All right. Now how do you know when those seven years are going to start? Well you know this way. He will make a firm covenant with the many for one week for that final week of the seventy weeks or that final seven years. The he is the prince who is to come. That's not Jesus Christ. It's speaking of the abomination of desolation that is going to stand in the holy place. Now he's going to make a covenant with the many, the many in Israel. A covenant is a solemn binding agreement and when he makes that covenant for seven years it says, “…but in the middle of the week….” What's the middle of seven years? The middle of seven years is after three and a half years. So after three and a half years it says, “…he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering….”(9:27b) Now
listen. There's only one place that the Jews are allowed to make sacrifices and that's in the temple. So you can know this. That when a world ruler comes to Jerusalem and he makes a covenant with the many in this city, he's going to make a seven year covenant. He's going to permit sacrifices. He's going to permit grain offerings. What does that tell you? That tells you that there has to be a temple. So there will be a temple on this mount. Now, in the middle of the week he will put a stop to that. When does he put a stop to that? Well let me finish reading this and then you'll see how it all fits and it's so incredibly awesome. It says, “…in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate….” (9:27c) In other words this is the abomination of desolation. There will come one who makes desolate when in the middle of those last seven years after three and a half years the abomination of desolation will walk into the holy place and he will walk right through into that temple, right past the table of showbread, right past the seven branched menorah. Right past the altar of incense, right past the veil He will throw back that veil and He will walk right past the veil He will throw back that veil and He will walk into the holy of holies and He will take His seat in that temple and say I am God and there is no other and you will worship Me. You can know from that point on there are only three and one half years left. Daniel makes it very clear. He says, “And he will make…desolate…until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one [that] makes desolate.” (9:27d) In other words the one that walks into that temple, the one that declares himself to be god is eventually going to be destroyed. He's going to be destroyed completely and who's going to destroy him? The One who is the Messiah. The One who is sitting at the right hand of the throne of God. The One who ever lives to make intercession for us is going to hear from the Father come now for all things are ready. And then He will begin His descent and He will begin His direct warfare against the abomination of desolation and after three and one half years, He will rule as King of kings and Lord of lords. And you say,
“Kay, Kay, where is the church in all this? Where are we? Are we going to be here? Are we going to see this happen? What's our role? What's our part?” Well, Precious One, we're going to talk about that. Not today but what I want you to know and what I want you to understand is this, that Jesus is coming. He is coming and we can look up and know that our redemption is drawing nigh. All the conflict about this land is in preparation for that time of the abomination of desolation.