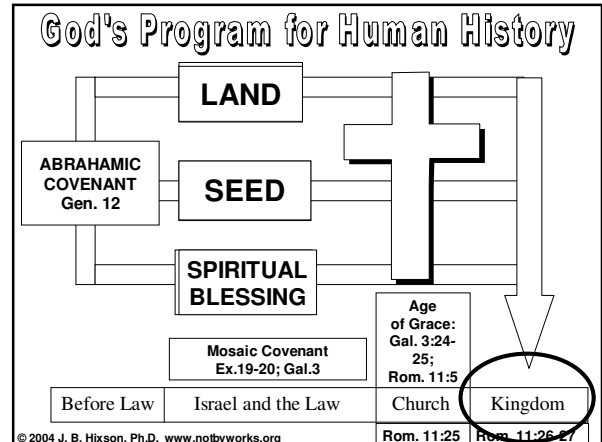


**The Church in
God's Kingdom
Program**

Ephesians 3:1-12
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The Book of Daniel

- The record of Daniel's ministry spans some 70 years, covering the entire time of the Babylonian exile (c. 605-536 B.C.)
- Jerusalem and the temple lay in ruins.
- The book of Daniel emphasizes the sovereignty of God in working out His covenant program with Israel.

The Book of Daniel

- Chapters 1-6 show God's sovereignty at work in the past.
- Chapters 7-12 show God's sovereignty at work in the future, particularly as it relates to that period of time Jesus would later call "the times of the Gentiles" (Luke 21:24).

The Book of Daniel

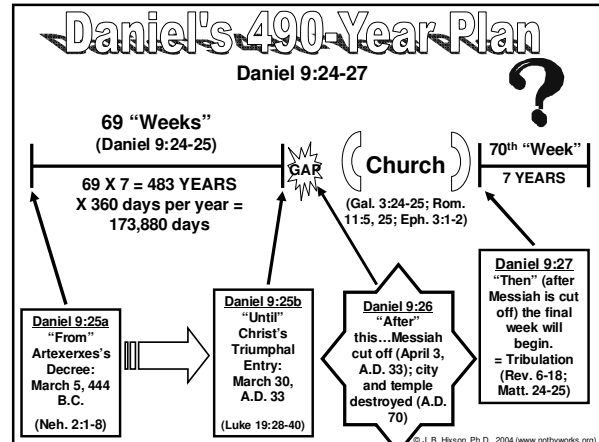
- Through Daniel, God reveals a period of Gentile domination of Israel that will include four great world powers:
 - Babylon
 - Medo-Persia
 - Greece
 - Rome

Daniel's 70 Weeks

- Daniel chapter nine is the single, most significant passage in all the Bible when it comes to understanding biblical prophecy.
 - Verse 1 gives us the time context: 538 B.C.
 - Verse 2... Daniel understands Jeremiah's prophecy of 70 years *literally*.

Daniel's 70 Weeks

- Verses 3-19...Jeremiah had revealed that God would restore His people to their land when they prayed to Him wholeheartedly (Jer. 29:12-14). This revelation prompted Daniel to pray.
- Verses 20-23...Gabriel responds to Daniel's prayer.
- Verses 24-27...God reveals a 490 year timetable for His future plan for Israel ("Daniel's 70 Weeks").



1. The CONCERN of the church age

Four Purposes for Israel

1. To witness to the unity of Yahweh in the midst of universal idolatry and paganism (Deut. 6:4; Is. 43:10-12)
2. To be an example to the nations of the benefits of serving Yahweh (Deut. 33:26-29)
3. To receive and record God's revelation (i.e. the Scriptures; Deut. 4:5-8; Rom. 3:1-2)
4. To produce the Savior (Gen. 3:15; 12:3; 22:18; Is. 7:14; 9:6; Rom. 1:1-6)

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Five Purposes of the Church Age

- A. To call out a people for His name (Acts 15:14; cf. 11:26)
- B. To showcase the exceeding riches of God's grace and mercy (Eph. 2:7; Rom. 11:11-15; 31)
- C. To get Israel's attention (Rom. 11:11)
- D. To showcase God's wisdom (Eph. 3:10)
- E. To prepare a body that will help rule the Messianic Kingdom (Matt. 19:28; Lk. 19:11-27; 22:28-30; 2 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 20:4-6)

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The Church According to Ephesians

- A body that can never die (Eph. 1)
- A building that can never be destroyed (Eph. 2)
- A boldness that can never be discouraged (Eph. 3)
- A brotherhood that can never be disrupted (Eph. 4)
- A bride that can never be divorced (Eph. 5)
- A battalion that can never be defeated (Eph. 6)



2. The COMMENCEMENT of the church age

Six Unequivocal Proofs that the Church Began in Acts 2

- A. Matthew 16:18
- Church not in existence yet.
- B. Acts 1:4-5
- Baptism Promised
- C. Acts 2:4
- Baptism Occurs

Six Unequivocal Proofs that the Church Began in Acts 2

- D. Acts 11:15-16
- Baptism is called a “beginning”
- E. 1 Corinthians 12:12-13
- Baptism forms a body
- F. Ephesians 1:22-23 (and Col. 1:18)
- Body is called “the Church”



3. The CHARACTER of the church age


The Character of the Church Age

- A. The church age is a *mystery* (Eph. 3:1-12; Col. 1:24-27).
- B. The church age is the *last times* (1 Pet. 1:5; Jude 18; 1 John 2:18; 1 Tim. 4:1; 2 Tim. 3:1; Heb. 1:2).
- C. The church age is an *evil age* (Gal. 1:4; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 6:12; Titus 2:12; 2 Tim. 3:1).

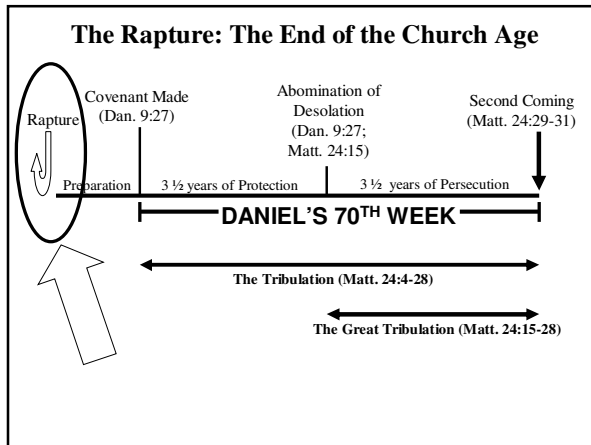
The Evil Character of the Church Age

- Denial of God (2 Tim. 3:4-5)
- Denial of Christ (1 John 4:3)
- Denial of Christ's return (2 Pet. 3:3-4)
- Denial of the faith (1 Tim. 4:1-2; Heb. 10:35; 2 Tim. 2:13; Jude 3)
- Denial of sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:3-4)

4. The CLOSE of the church age



- ### The Close of the Church Age
- A. Jesus promised that He would come back and take the church “to be where He is.” (John 14:1-3).
 - B. Paul taught that believers could look forward to a sudden future time when they are “caught up to meet the Lord in the air.” (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:50-58).
 - C. Paul taught that believers are to wait for Jesus to return and “rescue” us “from the wrath to come.” (1 Thess. 1:10).



5. The COMMAND during the church age



- ### The Command of the Church Age
- A. Make disciples (Matthew 28:19-20).
 - B. Be faithful (1 Cor. 4:1-5; 1 John 2:28).
 - C. Look up and be watchful (2 Tim. 4:8; 1 Cor. 15:58).
 - D. Prepare to serve (John 12:26; Luke 19:17).