"I will remember my covenant with thee."

—Ezek. 16:60.

GOD’S GREAT PROPHECIES

No. 10

"Prophetic Exactitude or the Seven Times of Israel"

The wonderful exactitude with which the Bible speaks in regard to Israel, Babylon and Palestine is surely indicative of the certainty of its fulfilment. GOD surely purposes to remember His elect.

PRICE 10c.

PROPHETIC BIBLE CONFERENCE LECTURES
Delivered by
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GOD'S PLAN

ONE WEEK
62 WEEKS
7 WEEKS
40 YEARS
11 YEARS
7 YEARS
7 YEARS
40 YEARS
10 YEARS
536 B.C.

JEREMIAH 25:8,11,12

JEREMIAH 52:8-15

EDICT OF ARTAXERXES 445 B.C.

DANIEL 9:24-27

BIRTH OF ABRAM 2111 B.C.

1 THESS. A:16,17

ISRAEL
ISA. 535

GAL. 3:17

LEVITICUS 26:18

EXODUS 1606 B.C.

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE 1005 B.C.

FOUR EQUAL CYCLES.
(490 YRS. EA.)

ISRAEL.

EZEK. 16:60
Lecture No. 10

Prophetic Exactitude or the Seven Times of Israel

"And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you SEVEN TIMES more for your sins."
—Lev. 26:18.

When one goes on in the study of prophecy, he cannot help be struck with the minute detail of its declarations, much of which has already been literally fulfilled. The preciseness of this detail and the manner of its fulfilment should surely indicate that these

PROPHETIC STATEMENTS ARE FAR FROM MERE SPECULATION.

There are some who hesitate to enter into a study of these things because of this minuteness. They seem to think that as long as religion is kept a far-away, idealistic, superstitious sort of thing, it deserves their loyalty and homage, but once make it definite and realistic, and they will hesitate even to read it. We are quite sure that if they thought of building a house for themselves, and the contractor would give no specifications nor plans, they would hesitate, and wisely so. Then why should the very specific details of GOD's plans not attract them instead of causing hesitation and doubt! GOD has plainly declared it.

MATT. 16:29-30: "Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are numbered."

What matchless exactitude!

ACTS 15:18: "Known unto GOD are all His works from the beginning of the world."

What wonderful omniscience!

It delights one's heart to turn over the pages of GOD'S Great Prophecies regarding the Messiah, and discover the exact fulfilment that follows. We turn to—

ISA. 7:14: "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name, Immanuel."

And also to—

MICAH. 5:2: "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth—that is to be ruler in Israel."

And compare these with—

MATT. 1:22: "Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled, which was spoken of the LORD by the prophet, saying: Behold a Virgin shall be with child, etc."

MATT. 2:4-5: "And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born, and they said: In Bethlehem of Judah: for thus it is written by the prophet. And thou Bethlehem, etc."

( 3 )
And at once the preciseness of the fulfilment is evident. But we read on and on—

HOSEA 11:1: "When Israel was a child then I loved Him and called My Son out of Egypt."—A kernel from the old story!

ISA. 42:3: "A bruised reed shall he not break and the smoking flax shall he not quench."—A tribute to His gentleness!

ZECH. 11:12: "If ye think good, give me my price, and if not forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver."—Think of it! The exact words of Judas Iscariot.

ISA. 50:6: "I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheek to them that plucked out the hair."

PSALM 22: 16-18: "They pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."

PSALM 69:21: "They gave me also gall for my meat, and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."

PSALM 34: 20: "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."

How detailed and accurate these prophecies are!

PSALM 22:1: "My GOD, MY GOD, why hast thou forsaken me?"

Note, please, the exact words of the Cross, 600 years before it happened. You see that a careful student of prophecy could have told, with minute exactitude, the story of the Cross, centuries before it happened. Jesus, Himself, knew the very hour when it was to take place.

JOHN 19:31: "Now before the Feast of the Passover, when Jesus knew that His hour was come that He should depart out of this world unto the Father having loved His own... loved them unto the end."

Surely, then, prophecy is no mere speculation!

In my former lectures I have already pointed out that

THE TIME OF THE HEBREWS IS NOT YET FULFILLED.

Three dispensations are included by Scripture in GOD'S dealing with His chosen people, Israel.

(1) PROMISE. When God called Abram, He gave him an unconditional Covenant to the land and admonished him to remain there, and he would be blessed. In spite of all this, in the course of years we find the Hebrews in bondage in Egypt, and thus the dispensation of Promise ends.

(2) LAW. GOD then in a miraculous way brought them out of Egypt, and at Mt. Sinai gave them the Law, which forbade, in the most distinct terms, the worship of idols. Notwithstanding all this, the Hebrews allowed themselves to drift into idolatry, and finally Nebuchadnezzar, Emperor of Babylon, destroyed them as a nation, and carried them into captivity, and gradually they were scattered among the heathen nations, and the time of the Hebrews was suspended, but not ended.

ROMANS 11:25: "I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits: that blindness in part has happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in."

For the last 25 centuries this condition has existed. The blessing and the curse has been upon Israel amidst the heathen nations of the world.

DEUT. 30:1-3: "And it shall come to pass when all these things are come upon thee, the blessing and the curse, which I have set before thee, and thou shalt call them to mind among all the nations, whither the Lord thy GOD hath driven thee, and shalt return unto the Lord thy GOD, and shall obey His voice according to all I command thee this day, thou and thy children, with all that heart and with all thy soul: that then the Lord thy GOD will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return, and gather thee from all the nations whither the Lord thy GOD hath scattered thee."

(3) KINGDOM. When Israel is gathered back to their own land, then will the Kingdom be restored to them and the last dispensation inaugurated.

It is my purpose in this lecture to point out a little more of GOD'S exactitude and precision in regard to the time of the Hebrews.
When Abram received GOD’S Seal to his Covenant to the Land of Palestine, he was given a striking prophecy regarding the Egyptian bondage, some 400 years before it occurred—

GEN. 15:13-14: “And He said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years: and also that nation whom they shall serve will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.”

This all actually happened. Israel was miraculously delivered from Egypt by GOD, and after receiving the Law at Mt. Sinai, were given another prophecy that I wish to deal with at this time.

LEV. 26: 14-17-18: “But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments . . . I will set my face against you, and ye shall be smitten before your enemies: they, that hate you, shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you. And if ye will not yet, for all this, hearken unto me, then I will punish you SEVEN TIMES more for your sins.”

WHAT IS MEANT BY THESE SEVEN TIMES?

Here again we meet with the speculative calculators. They say “TIMES” means years. Seven times equals 7 years or 2,520 days. Now applying the year-day principle we have 2,520 years. Counting 2,520 years from 506 B.C., when Nebuchadnezzar got world control and Israel was led into captivity, brings us to 1914 A.D. Thus Israel will be restored to their land in 1914. But that year has come and gone, and no such event has occurred. Once more the year-day fallacy has been shown to be a failure in prophetic interpretation.

We must learn to take these things literally. Days means days. To punish seven times means what it says, and nothing else. When God told Joshua to lead his people around Jericho SEVEN TIMES, what do you think would have happened if Joshua used some of these speculating methods of the calculators and thought it meant seven years before they were to shout? The answer is obvious. Jericho would never have fallen. We can never get the truth of GOD by any such method of interpretation.

Now the question comes when and how did GOD punish Israel SEVEN TIMES for their disobedience? The careful study of the Scriptures in this connection has revealed the fact that GOD has marvellously planned and timed the details of Israel’s history with an exactitude that is astonishing.

FOUR GREAT CYCLES.

Four is the number representing the world. There are four seasons, four points of the compass, four elements. The Scriptures plainly outline and detail four cycles that GOD has purposed for Israel from the Birth of Abram until the Coming of the Seed that shall bless the nations of the world. It comprehends the history of the Hebrew in the world. The marvellous thing about the whole is that these represent periods, all of equal duration, when applied to GOD’S people. Let us examine them—

(1) From the Birth of Abram (2111 B.C.) until the Exodus from Egypt and the Giving of the Law (1606 B.C.) This is actually a period of 505 years, plainly indicated in the Scriptures.

GEN. 12:4: “So Abram departed as the Lord had spoken unto him: and Lot went with him: And Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed out of Haran.”

From this we learn that Abram received the Covenant from the LORD GOD when he was 75 years old.

GAL. 3:17: “And this I say that the covenant that was confirmed before of GOD in Christ, the law which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul.”

Hence it is evident that from the Birth of Abram to the giving of the Law was 75 + 430 = 505 years.
The story of the Promised Seed and Abram’s distress in the realization that he was now 85 and Sarai 75 years old, and yet they had no children, is well known to all, What did they do? Why, simply fell back on man’s wisdom and efforts, and thereby brought into the home a usurper, in the person of Ishmael.

GEN. 16:16: “And Abram was four-score and six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram.”

Now Ishmael was not the Promised Seed, for “in Isaac shall thy seed be called.” And now one of the most miraculous births took place, a birth next in wonder to the Virgin Birth of the Lord. It simply baffles all medical science, and can only be explained on the ground of a faith miracle. Well might Sarah laugh when she realized the facts and heard the prophecy of the Lord.

GEN. 18:10-11: “And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life: and to Sarah, thy wife, shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door which was behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. Therefore, Sarah laughed.”

Ishmael was now 13 years of age (Gen. 17:25) and was circumcised according to the institution given to Abraham. One year later Isaac was born, according to the promise.

GEN. 21: 5; “And Abraham was one hundred years old when Isaac was born unto him.”

One year later he was weaned, and Sarah detected the 15-year-old boy Ishmael mocking, and the quarrel ensued in which the usurper was driven from the home.

THIS LEADS US TO A PRINCIPLE, VIZ.:

Whenever, for any reason, Israel is shut out from his birth-right, the time during which this incompetency continues is not to be reckoned. Thus if we deduct these 15 years from the 505 years, the time of God’s dealing represented by this first cycle becomes 490 years. That this principle is recognized by Holy Writ will be further recognized as we proceed. The second cycle extends—

(2) From the Giving of the Law (1903 B.C.) until the Completion of Solomon’s Temple (1005 B.C.). (See cut page 2). This is actually a period of 601 years. It is well to note again that we are not dependent upon the marginal dates of Bishop Ussher’s Chronology or of any other historian.

Turning to the Inspired Word we find in—

ACTS 13: 17-22: “The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it. And about the time of forty years suffered he them in their manners in the wilderness. And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan he divided their land to them by lot. And after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years until Samuel the prophet. And afterward they desired a King: And GOD gave unto them Saul, the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years. And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their King.”

The only omission of time, in the above passage, from the giving of the Law unto King David is that of Samuel, the Prophet. Samuel judged Israel from the time the Ark was brought back from the Philistines until the time of King Saul. During all this time, the Ark abode in Kerjath-jearim.

1. SAMUEL 7:2: “And it came to pass while the ark abode in Kerjath-jearim that the time was long, for it was twenty years.”

Thus we have: Wilderness, 40 years; Judges, 450 years; Samuel, 20 years; Saul, 40 years; i.e., 550 years. Now the length of David’s reign is plainly stated in—

1. KINGS 2:11: “And the days that David reigned over Israel were forty years: seven years reigned he in Hebron and thirty and three years reigned he in Jerusalem.”

The Temple was completed in the 11th year of Solomon’s reign—

1. KINGS 6:38: “And in the eleventh year, in the month, Bul, which is the eighth month, was the house finished throughout all the parts thereof.”

(6)
Now add these 40 years and 11 years to the 550 years we had before, and we get 601 years from the giving of the Law unto the completion of Solomon’s Temple—

APPLY NOW THE ELIMINATION PRINCIPLE.

We find that on six occasions certain usurpers had set Israel aside from their birth-right. We enumerate them herewith—

(a) The Mesopotamians enslaved Israel for 8 years—

JUDGES 3:8: “Therefore the anger of the Lord was hot against Israel and he sold them into the hand of Chushan-rishathaim, King of Mesopotamia: and the children of Israel served Chushan-rishathaim eight years.”

(b) The Moabites next enslaved them for 18 years—

JUDGES 3:14: “So the children of Israel served Eglon the King of Moab, eighteen years.”

(c) The Canaanites also oppressed Israel for 20 years—

JUDGES 4:3: “And twenty years, he (Jabin, King of Canaan) mightily oppressed the children of Israel.”

(d) The Midianites were usurpers next for seven years—

JUDGES 6:1: “And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them unto the hand of Midian seven years.”

(e) Next the Philistines and Ammonites vexed them for 18 years—

JUDGES 10:8: “And that year they vexed and oppressed the children of Israel: eighteen years all the children of Israel that were on the other side Jordan.”

(f) Lastly, the Philistines alone oppressed them for 40 years—

JUDGES 13:1: “And the children of Israel did evil again in the sight of the Lord: and the Lord delivered them into the hand of the Philistines forty years.”

Counting up these six occasions, we find as follows: Mesopotamians, 8 years; Moabites, 18 years; Canaanites, 20 years; Midianites, 7 years; Ammonites, 18 years; Philistines, 40 years. This makes a total of 111 years.

Now if we deduct these 111 years from the 601 years, the time of GOD’s dealing represented by the second cycle becomes 490 years, which is exactly the same length as the first. (See chart, page 2.)

Allow me to digress a moment. It has been charged by some who seem anxious to pick flaws in the Bible, that there is a gross error in the statement of time recorded in—

1 KINGS 6:1: “And it came to pass in the four hundred and eightieth year after the children of Israel were come out of Egypt, in the month of Zif, which is the second month, that he began to build the house of the Lord.”

Now they say it was 591 years from the time that the children of Israel came out of Egypt, and not 490 years as stated. This is true, but we must remember the Jewish record will not include the 111 years, hence the statement is correct.

Thus far you notice we have the record of six times that GOD has punished Israel for not hearkening unto His commands. If they had paid careful heed to the prophecy of Leviticus 26:18, they would have known that once more they would receive another punishment. The third cycle extends—

(3) From the Completion of the Temple (1005 B.C.) Unto the Edict of Artaxerxes to Restore and Build Jerusalem (445 B.C.) (See cut, page 2.) This is actually a period of 560 years. Artaxerxes began to reign in 465 B.C. The date of his edict has been carefully recorded—

NEHEMIAH 2:1: “And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes, the King, etc.”

( 7 )
APPLY AGAIN THE ELIMINATION PRINCIPLE.

Israel once more did not obey, and for the seventh time they were punished—

JER. 25: 8-11,12: “Therefore thus saith the Lord of hosts: Because ye have not heard my words.... This whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the King of Babylon seventy years. And it shall come to pass when seventy years are accomplished that I will punish the King of Babylon.”

In 606 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar sacked Jerusalem, captured Zedekiah, slew his sons, put out the king’s eyes, and carried him and the greater part of the people captive to Babylon. (See Jer. 52:8-15.) Later in the 17th year of Nabonidus, Nebuchadnezzar’s successor (B.C. 539), Cyrus captured Babylon. Daniel prospered under Cyrus, and in the year 536 B.C. the Jews were allowed to return to Jerusalem. Deduct these 70 years from the 560 years, and the time of GOD’S dealing as represented by the third cycle also becomes 490 years. Surely this is no mere coincidence.

The careful reader, having recognized that three of these periods correspond exactly having 490 years (or 70 Land Sabbaths each), would naturally anticipate a fourth of equal duration. And surely one’s breath is almost taken away as he reads the message given by the Angel Gabriel to Daniel. Daniel had realized that the seven times of Israel had been accomplished, so he is earnestly praying for the Restoration of his people as prophesied by Moses (Deut. 30:1-3). Three whole weeks he prays, and finally Gabriel arrives with the message—

DAN. 9:24: “Seventy Weeks (land Sabbaths) 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.”

Thus we have the fourth cycle of 490 years.

(4) From the Edict of Artaxerxes (445 B.C.) Until the Time of Everlasting Righteousness (the Millennium). (See cut, page 2.) This period is divided into three sections, two of which have been fulfilled—

DAN. 9:25: “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 (1) seven weeks, and (2) three-score-and-two weeks: the street shall be built again and the wall, even in (3) troublous times.”

You will note the three sections: (1) Seven weeks; (2) 62 weeks; and (3) one week (troublous times).

One may ask why do we reckon Land Sabbaths (Lev. 25:4) rather than holy Sabbaths (Lev. 23:3), or Jubilee Sabbaths (Lev. 25:18)? The reply: Two of the periods have been fulfilled, so thus we know.

The Temple took 46 years to build, and the City 49 years—

JOHN 2:20: “Then said the Jews: Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days.”

Again Artaxerxes’ decree to build the City was issued March 14th, 445 B.C. Messiah, the Prince, was cut off (crucified) Palm Sunday, April 2nd, A.D. 30. This makes 476 years and 20 days, or 173,880 days. According to Prophetic Chronology of the Bible a calendar year is equal to 360 days.

GEN. 7:11-24: “In the six hundredth year of Noah’s life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, were all the fountains of the great deep broken up,.... And the waters prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.”

GEN. 8:34: “And after the end of the hundred and fifty days, the waters were debated, and the ark rested in the seventh month on the seventeenth day of the month.”

If five months are reckoned as 150 days, then the calendar year of the Bible must be 360 days. Thus 173,880 days would be 483 years, or 69 Land-Sabbaths.
Deducting the seven weeks for City building and we get 62 weeks, at the end of which the Messiah is to be cut off—

DAN. 9:26: "After three-score and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself."

Thus we see that not only have the three cycles been actually fulfilled, but also 483 years of the fourth. But the Jews rejected Christ. Yes, they crucified Him, and said His blood be upon us. This was to finish the transgression. Now for over 1900 years GOD has left their eyes blinded, and is calling out of the world a people for His name. When this is completed and the Rapture of the Church (I. Thess. 4: 13-17) has taken place, then the last seven years of this cycle will be brought in—

DAN. 9:27: "And he (the Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for one week; and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease."

Dear reader, surely the exactness of GOD’S plans is apparent to you. Israel can well depend on the literalness of GOD’S Word. They shall yet pass through the last end of the indignation, and then when they have looked upon Him whom they have pierced and have repented, they shall be gathered into their own promised land and the Millennium of GOD’S blessing will be theirs.

But now the Almighty GOD is offering salvation, full and free, to anyone who will believe on the Crucified Christ.

Do you not think His plan for us in this day of grace is equally precise and certain? Hear ye!

MATT. 11:28: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest."

ISA. 53:56: "He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."

ROMANS 10:9: "If thou shalt (1) confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and (2) believe in thine heart that GOD has raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Why do you wait, dear brother?
Oh, why do you tarry so long?
The Saviour is waiting to give YOU
A place in His sanctified throng.
Why not? Why not come to Him NOW?