

SETTING THE STAGE

Scripture Reference: 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Last session we looked at the “Eighth Beast Empire” and what nations would compose this 10-nation federation. Before we begin to dig into the study of the actual 70th Week of Daniel and all the events that will unfold then and beyond, let’s take one session here to examine the various conditions and events that must take place for the stage to be set for the rise of the Antichrist. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

QUESTION?	How do you see us today in comparison with 2 Timothy 3:1-5?

In this passage, Paul writes to young Timothy on what the church should expect to see take place in culture during the period he calls “last days” leading up to the 70th Week or the Tribulation.

So we see that condition number one is **A GENERAL MORAL DECAY.**

Now, let’s read 2 Timothy 4:3-4

QUESTION?	What does Paul say here will be going on in the church?

Now, read 2 Peter 2:1-3, 13-15

QUESTION?	What does Peter add will be going on in the church?

One final verse to look at is 1 Timothy 4:7

QUESTION?	What will some in the church do in “later times”?

As we have seen from these passages, there will not only be a general moral decay in our culture(s), but also a general **SPIRITUAL DECAY** in the church is condition number two.

Now, let’s read Deuteronomy 30:1, 5-9.

QUESTION?	What things must take place according to this passage?

Notice the sequence of events that must happen according to this passage given by Moses.

- 1) The Jews are dispersed because of their sin. (verse 1)
- 2) The Jews will be physically restored to Jerusalem (verse 5)
- 3) The Jews will be spiritually (relationally) restored to God (verse 6)
- 4) The Jews will divinely defeat their enemies (verse 7)
- 5) The Jews will obey God and observe all His commandments (verse 8)
- 6) The Jews will experience a prosperity in the nation finally (verse 9)

Read Ezekiel 36:24-26.

QUESTION?	What does this passage have in common with Deuteronomy 30?

Some Historical points

- The Jews were scattered by Rome in AD 70.
- In 1897, a group of Jews met to discuss their common dream of a homeland back in the land of Israel. The movement born from that gathering was called Zionism.

- The Balfour Declaration by Great Britain (1917) looked favorably on giving Jews land in Palestine to which they could emigrate and live under Britain’s protection.
- 1948 – The United Nations officially recognized Israel as a sovereign country.

Therefore, the **Jews moving back to their God-given land** is condition number three.

Read Daniel 9:27

Not only did the Jews have to occupy their land in order for the stage to be set, but they also must possess the city of Jerusalem, the “holy city.”

In the Six-Day War of 1967, Israel acquired the entire city of Jerusalem into their national boundaries. So, condition number four is that **Israel possesses Jerusalem** – the last historical barrier to the 70th week.

Now, read 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

QUESTION?	According to Paul, what else must take place for the stage to be set?

In order for the Antichrist to take his seat in the temple, from where he will demand the worship of the world at the midpoint of the seventieth week, a temple must exist on the temple mount, which as of now, does not.

This is a complex issue since many believe that the ancient site of the Temple is now occupied by the Muslim mosque known as the “Dome of the Rock.” However, there is a great deal of modern scholarship that holds the actual temple mount is 100 yards+ to the northwest of the Dome of the Rock. So, it is possible that they could both co-exist.

Some hold that the negotiation of the rebuilding of the Temple could be at the very heart of the “Covenant of Death” that the Antichrist strikes with Israel and some other parties. Could be???

However, the Temple does not yet have to be built in order for the 70th week to begin, but could just as easily be built during the first three years of the 70th week. So, event number five is the **focus to rebuild the Temple**.

Lastly, read Daniel 7:8.

The remaining event that will signal to all of us that the 70th week is on the horizon is the overthrow of three separate Japhetic countries by a new powerful world leader, bringing

together the three-nation coalition that will drive the ten nations that will comprise the final beast empire.

Therefore... to sum it up

Conditions and Events Prior to the 70th Week:

- 1) A general moral decay
- 2) A general spiritual decay in the church
- 3) The Jews return to Israel
- 4) Israel possesses Jerusalem
- 5) The Focus to rebuild the Temple.
- 6) The Three-nation coalition.