

## Chapter 4

### TIMING OF CHRIST'S SECOND COMING

#### *The Final Decree Everyone Missed*



**B**ecause of the traditional interpretation that is believed and taught by the majority of Christians alive today, what you are about to discover will totally shock you. Most will immediately reject this new perspective and refuse to genuinely consider it. Changing one's paradigm is extremely difficult; particularly when it goes against everything we have been taught. As Author Bloomfield has said about tradition, "a person once infected is very difficult to reach. It seems as if one simply cannot get through to him."

Practically everyone who studies prophecy is looking for the Antichrist to arrive on the scene to make a 7-year peace treaty with Israel. Then after 3 ½ years, he is to break the treaty and begin his 42 months of persecution (Daniel 7:21, 25, 9:27).

Under this popular traditional teaching, the Rapture will take place before this 7-year treaty is signed and the entire Church will be taken away from the horrible tribulation period.

This author held this view until Marvin Rosenthal wrote his book: ***The Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church***. Attending the same church with Marvin motivated me to be a staunch Berean (Acts 17:11). As a result, the Lord showed me that he is partially correct. However, I also discovered that he missed the first phase of the rapture that Jesus also taught. This important aspect will be discussed in the next chapter.

#### **Blinded By Traditions?**

Most who hold to the popular 7-year peace treaty tradition may have been blinded by popular theory. When you think about it, why would Israel enter into a peace treaty that only had a term that lasted 7 years?

What would happen at the end of those 7 years? Would the parties to the treaty go back to their previous state of affairs and begin military operations? It would not make very much sense to enter into a peace treaty that had a fixed limit to its length. When you really think about it, why would anyone enter into such an agreement?

What you are about to read will help explain the passages in Daniel and it will completely change your perspective on where we are in God's prophetic timeline. Daniel's prophecy regarding the 70 Weeks includes a unique verse that specifically mentions the restoration of Jerusalem with *plaza* and *moat*:

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; *it will be built again, with plaza and moat*, even in times of distress. (Daniel 9:25 – NASB)

### **New Discovery by Dr. Christian Widener**

“In verse 25, it says that Jerusalem's restoration will include work at a “plaza and moat.” If you read different translations, you will find that they have struggled with the proper meaning of the ancient Hebrew words in English. Some have translated it “streets” and “trench” for example....the word for plaza, *rechob*, was specifically used in Ezra 7:15-19, speaking about the plaza of the temple (i.e., the Temple Mount). It can also mean a wide street area (for a meeting place at a gate or square in the city), but we have a good scriptural tie for associating it with the temple, in this case.”

“The word *charuwts* can mean a moat or trench, but a simple trench, such as a large ditch dug in the earth or rock, would not be listed as a structure that needed to be restored. It makes more sense that it was a large, fortified moat. Thus, plaza and moat look like the best translations of those words. Another reason we can be confident that the reference is to a moat is because one of the repairs Suleiman made included an actual moat. It can still be seen today around the Citadel of David, the so-called Tower of David (see photo, at the top of the next page), near the Jaffa Gate inside the Old City.”

“The view is from the east side of the tower, looking north, and was taken January 13, 2020.

When the moat was repaired, he embedded a carved stone plaque in the wall to document his work. The part of the moat where the plaque is located was buried in 1898, but a photo of it was taken before it was covered over in the expansion of the city.



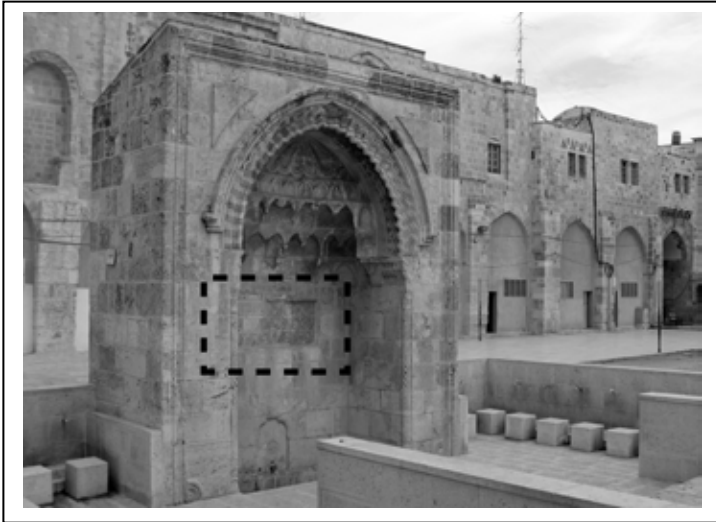
The photo below was taken by Max van Berchem before it was covered over in the expansion of the city.”<sup>172</sup>



“Here is the translation of the stone plaque above:<sup>173</sup>     *“The order to construct this tower for protection of the Islamic walls by his power and duration of his reign, and to dispose of the favouring idols by his force and strength, the One that did Allah especially elected to rule the neck of the Kings in the World, the possessor in chain of the throne of Caliphate, Sultan son of Sultan, son of Sultan, Son of Sultan...”*

“It is truly amazing! There is an actual moat within the Old City of Jerusalem and it has a plaque proclaiming its restoration by Suleiman; however, there is no date on this specific plaque...”

“Fortunately, that is not the only plaque I want to show you. Suleiman also extensively repaired the plaza of the temple, and he placed a fountain (*sabil*) and another plaque with an inscription to document its restoration. It not only confirms that the Temple Mount was an area restored by Suleiman, but it also gives us a date for his decree. It is called *Sabil Bab el Atm*, meaning fountain at the Gate of Darkness (see photo, *below* <sup>174</sup>).”



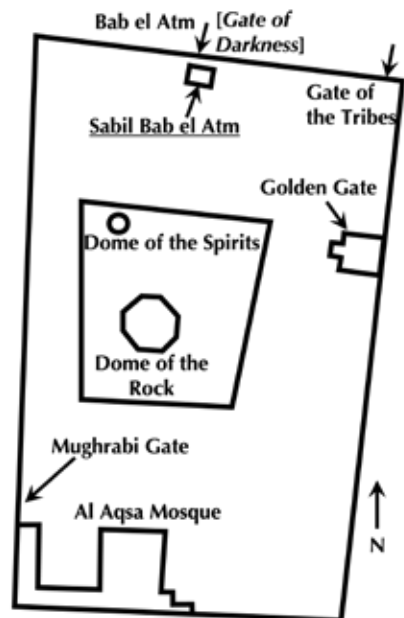
174 Sabil Bab el Atm photo by Chris Yunker, November 18, 2007.

175 Photo of Suleiman’s decree courtesy of Veit Ullrich, April 2022.

“The translation of the plaque<sup>175</sup> is: “*He has ordered the construction of this blessed Sabil, our Master, the Sultan, the greatest Sultan and the honourable Hakan, who rules the necks of the nations, the Sultan of the lands of Rum, the Arabs and Persians (ajams), the Sultan Suleyman, son of Sultan Selim Khan, may Allah perpetuate his reign and his sultanate, On the date of Hijra of the Prophet at the beginning of Shaban the blessed in the year 943. And blessings be upon Muhammed and upon his followers.*”<sup>176</sup>

176 Tütüncü. *Turkish Jerusalem*, 74; In total, Suleiman had nearly three dozen inscriptions documenting his work in Jerusalem between 1536-1541. Within the walls of the city, the oldest is at the *Sabil el Wad*, which is near the *Bab el Kattanin* (Cotton Merchants Gate) of the *Haram al-Sharif* (Temple Mount). It is dated December 14th, 1536. The next oldest one is at another fountain (*sabil*) in the city called, *Sabil Bab el Silsile*, dated January 4, 1537. These dates are all very close. I’ve highlighted the one that is located on the plaza of the temple (the Temple Mount), since “plaza” is mentioned in verse 25. Either way, we are looking at a decree date that is between December 14th, 1536, and January 23rd, 1537.”

“The plaque Suleiman had placed there is located at the north end of the Temple Mount about fifteen meters south of the Gate of Darkness (*Bab el Atm*), as shown in the diagram below. It is dated “the beginning of Shaban 943.” The date given by this plaque converts to a modern date ranging from between the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January, 1537 on our Gregorian calendar.<sup>177</sup> That gives us a verifiable date range from which to begin counting 483 years forward. ...if you count 483 years from 1537 that brings us to the year 2020!”<sup>3</sup>



### Has The Final Countdown Begun?

Could it really be true? Has another 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel actually begun without anyone realizing it? Have we entered into the final week and has the Final Countdown begun?

In the last chapter, we discovered how Sultan Suleiman was God's chosen vessel to fulfill the prophecy in Isaiah 60:10, that foreigners would rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Now we see that Suleiman documented his work with over three dozen inscriptions etched in stone! And then we find that Suleiman placed his decree on the Temple Mount in the year 1537 (around January).

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; it will be built again, **with plaza and moat**, even in times of distress (Daniel 9:25 – NASB).

If we multiply 69 weeks (7 weeks + 62 weeks) times 7, we get 483 years. And if we go forward 483 years from 1537, we arrive at 2020!

This means that Suleiman's decree in 1537, began the Second fulfillment of Daniel's Seventy-week prophecy. The final 70<sup>th</sup> Week of Daniel's prophecy began in 2020.

If this is true then there should be some evidence. Remember in the last chapter we came to realize there may be a dual rendering of Daniel's prophecy with the Antichrist confirming a peace treaty. Let's see what took place in 2020 regarding a possible covenant.

### The Confirmation of the Covenant With Many

Dr. Christian Widener reminds us:

“First, we had an Israel-Palestine peace plan, sponsored by President Donald Trump and formally published on January 28th, 2020.<sup>180</sup> The plan was released almost exactly 483 years after these inscriptions. Then later the same year, some of the gulf Arab states began making peace with Israel under the Abraham Accords.<sup>181</sup>

The first agreements were officially signed on the White House lawn on September 15, 2020. They were initially signed by UAE, Bahrain, Morocco, and Sudan, and other nations are also expected to adopt and sign these agreements. Hence, a new era of peace began in the region in 2020, as some key Arab states expressed their recognition of Israel and their interest in a broad-range collaboration to mutually benefit their countries.

Because Daniel's prophesied "*confirmation of the covenant*" will begin a final period of seven years, many expect there will be a formal peace treaty for a precise period of seven years. However, a seven-year time limit on the agreement is not explicit in the text. **The Bible may say seven years because that is all the time that is left.** Consequently, an agreement at the start of the tribulation would be *de facto* a seven-year agreement. Furthermore, by naming these peace deals with Israel as the "**Abraham Accords**," we are being shown that the "confirmation of the covenant" has been satisfied simply in the naming of the peace agreements" [Emphasis added].<sup>4</sup>

Incredibly, the world may have witnessed the beginning of the final seven years for the Second fulfillment of Daniel's Seventy Weeks without even knowing it! Trump's peace plan and the Abraham Accords with *the many* nations could be the prophetic implementation of God's final plan. (Please see Appendix 2, 3 and 4 for more details).

### **Chart – Second Fulfillment of The Seventy Weeks of Daniel**

The chart that can be found on the next page summarizes what you have just read into a picture of where we may be in God's final timeline. This chart will probably upset you if you don't really want the Lord to come. If you are like me and you can't wait for Jesus to return, this will be exciting news that it may not be very much longer until we can get to be with our Lord.

The danger for all of us is to stubbornly defend what we have always believed because we are convinced it is true. But we could be wrong about some things so we always need to have a teachable spirit and open mind when it comes to the Word of God.

