

## LESSON 11

### **Seventieth week Appearance of “the man of iniquity” and related events**

**Objective:** To learn that the “mystery of iniquity” is already working in the world and wait in holiness and purity of life for the righteous kingdom of Messiah.

**Bible references:** Dan. 9:23-27; 2 Thes.2:1-12; 2 Tim. 3:1-5

**Memory verses: (NKJV): 2Thes. 2:9-10**

*The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

### **Introduction**

How true it is to say that iniquities and apostasy are increasing in the world day by day! Violence, injustice and immorality are certainly gaining ground. Note what has been mentioned in 2 Tim. 3:1-5 and 2Thes. 2:7 about the widespread prevalence of unrighteousness in the last days. While a small group of believers keep their life holy and wait for the coming of the Lord, a large group is waiting for the appearance of the “man of iniquity” who is Anti-Christ. Let us learn some

events related to the appearance of the Anti-Christ.

**I. The period before the seventieth week and Israel's condition:** The condition of Israel between the sixty-ninth week and seventieth week is revealed in Dan. 9:26: *"And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined"*. Messiah (Jesus Christ) was cut off (crucified). During the time of the same generation, Jerusalem city and the holy Temple were destroyed by the army of Titus Caesar in AD 70. Even Jesus had foretold the same events in Luke 21:6, 20-24, but the Jews did not pay any attention. Eusebio, the historian has recorded that Christians who remembered the words of Jesus ran away and escaped from Jerusalem when they saw the army of Titus surrounding the city. In that attack, one million Jews were killed and 95,000 were taken prisoners. The desolation of Jerusalem was completed in AD 135 when remaining Jews rebelled against the Roman emperor and were totally displaced from their homeland. They were scattered into different nations of the world. The words of Deut. 28:62-67 were literally fulfilled in their history. They were able to re-establish their own nation in Palestine after the world wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. But wars have been going on there continuously. According to Daniel's prophecy, wars are foretold till the end.

## **II. Important events connected with the seventieth week:**

1. Apostasy: Apostasy (falling away from faith) is foretold as the first sign of the seventieth week. *"Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition"* (2Thes. 2:3). The 'falling away' mentioned here is not about individuals. The reference is to a general condition of the nominal Christian world which does not fully accept the plan of salvation offered through Christ and lives in their own way according to their own reasoning and logic. As we see nowadays, efforts of religious leaders are aimed at establishing a universal brotherhood of all religions and a universal system of social justice. Word of God is not considered as totally inspired by God or literally acceptable. The world gives recognition to Christian leaders who preach such views and deny fundamental principles of the Bible. They are praised as large hearted and open minded. We can very well recognize this situation as the one predicted by Paul that would happen before the appearance of the 'man of sin'. Therefore, we can conclude

that the Church will be taken away very soon and the ‘man of sin’ will begin his rule on earth.

2. Appearance of Anti-Christ: Word of God clearly indicates that after the rapture of the Church, the iniquity now pervading the earth will materialize in the form of a person: *“And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate”* (Dan. 9:27). When he begins his rule, he will enter into a covenant with the Jews and Christian groups and will be in a conciliatory mood with them. But soon he will change his attitude and begin persecution. In the middle of the week, that is after three and a half years, sacrifices and worship will be stopped, and his image will be installed in the Temple. Jews will be compelled to worship the image (Dan. 9:27; 11:31, 37-39). They will be subjected to great persecution when they refuse to worship the image. Many will be martyred (Rev. 6:9; Matt. 24:21-22). (We will learn about the Anti-Christ in detail in the next lesson).
3. Six events mentioned in Dan. 9:24: *“Seventy weeks 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”*.
  - i. “Finishing the transgression”: Jews will end their transgression at the beginning of the seventieth week. They will repent as a nation and look to Christ whom they pierced (Isa. 59:20; Zech. 12:10; Rom. 11:26-27).
  - ii. “Making an end of sins”: The reference is to the casting of Satan, who is the cause of all sin, into the bottomless pit for thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3). This happens at the end of the seventieth week.
  - iii. “Making reconciliation for iniquity”: Israel as a nation will repent and turn towards Christ (Zech. 12:10-14). A fountain will remain open for the remission of their sins (Zech. 13:1). They will be cleansed (Zech. 14:21). Thus, their sin of rejecting Christ will be pardoned.
  - iv. “Bringing in everlasting righteousness”: Messiah will establish His righteous kingdom on earth at the end of the seventieth week. *“A King shall reign in righteousness and princes shall rule in judgement”* (Isa. 32:1, 15-18). *“We, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness”* (2 Pet. 3:13)

- v. “Sealing up the vision and prophecy”: Vision and prophecy are not needed after the seventieth week (1 Cor. 13:9-10). Hence, they are sealed.
- vi. “Anointing the most Holy”: Reference here is to the anointing of Messiah as King and Priest and the consecration of the Temple which will be built during the Millennial rule (Zech. 6:12-13). The Temple is described in chapters 41- 48 of Ezekiel.

### **Conclusion**

In which prophetic period are we living today? The seventieth week known as the Great Tribulation is soon approaching. The moral condition of the world declares that the ‘man of sin’ or the Anti-Christ will soon appear. What is your hope in the midst of all this? Let us wait for the coming of our Lord in holiness.

### **Questions**

- 1) This world is at present divided into two groups awaiting the appearances of two persons. For whom are both the groups waiting?
- 2) When did the sixty-ninth week end? With what event does the seventieth week begin?
- 3) What are the names given to the period between the sixty-ninth week and the seventieth week? What are the events of this period relating to Israel?
- 4) Explain the verse: “*there comes a falling away first*” written by Apostle Paul.
- 5) Write down the verse, Dan. 9:27 and explain its meaning.
- 6) Write down the verse, Dan. 9:24 and describe the six events mentioned in it.