

Daniel 9

12/17/2023

- We will be in the book of Daniel but we will also be in some other books for a short time.
- What we are going to do today is discuss perhaps the greatest prophecy in all of the bible concerning the totality of days for mankind.
- There will be parts of today's discussion that will be easily understood and parts that you are going to have to think through.
- We believe that we have the complete infallible Word of God delivered to us through Godly men who were inspired by the Holy Spirit.
 - We believe that all scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - What that means is we already have, in our possession, everything we need to accomplish all that God has for us.
 - We are without excuse.
- Because God loves us, He has given the diligent students of His word information concerning the plans He has for us.
 - That information comes to us in the form of prophecies told through various Prophets.
 - He tells us what He is going to do before He does it so that we may KNOW His plans and place our trust in Him.
 - Prophecy is God telling us He already knows the beginning and the end of all matters.
 - Prophecy is God showing us proof that He is in complete charge and that we can and should trust in Him.

- Prophecy strengthens our faith because we can see what God has prophesied in the past and has fulfilled so therefore, we can place our trust in His future prophecies.
- With all of that in mind, I wanted to go to perhaps the most important prophetic message from God concerning God's chosen people, the Jews, and the timeline He has set for the remainder of history.
 - We find this fascinating prophetic message in the Book of Daniel chapter 9.
 - This chapter is one of the most exciting chapters in the bible because it helps explain so much concerning other prophecies in the bible.
 - It is known as the centerpiece or backbone of all other prophecies.
 - The book of Revelation and many other prophetic books are almost impossible to decipher without the Book of Daniel to help us.
 - So, to know the future, we are going to go back some 2600 years and see what God had to say to Daniel in chapter 9.
- The setting of this chapter is that Daniel is in Babylon and has been there almost 70 years to this point after King Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed the city and brought captives back to Babylon.
 - Jerusalem has been left in ruins and the first temple, Solomons Temple, was destroyed by the Babylonian armies and left desolate.
 - This exile to Babylon came about because the Jewish nation did not follow what God had commanded them to do.
 - They were to work the land for 6 years and on the sixth year God would double their harvest in order to let the land rest on the seventh year, it was to be a Sabbath year for the land, a time of rest.
 - For 490 years, they broke this command until God reclaimed that time back as stated in 2 Chronicles 36:21
 - *"to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths.*

As long as she lay desolate, she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years"

- During this time span there should have been 70 sabbaths and there were not.
- Since they wouldn't do it, God did it for them and removed them from the land for 70 years.
- By this time, Daniel had already been offered up to the lions and survived that.
- He also endured many other trial and tests of his faith and never lost sight of who God was nor did he ever compromise on his faith.
- We can break up chapter 9 into three separate sections.
 - In verses 1-2 we see Daniel get an understanding of what is going to happen to the Jews after reading Jeremiah's prophecy concerning their time in captivity in Babylon.
 - In verses 3-23 we see Daniel's prayer for the nation of Israel as he realizes that they are about to return back to Jerusalem.
 - And in verses 24-27 Daniel is given a vision of the future of Israel.
- Verse 1&2
 - *In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans— in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.*
 - Before Nebuchadnezzar defeated them, Israel was the chief nation on the earth.
 - During the time of King David and King Solomon, they were unmatched anywhere in the world in power or prestige.

- After Solomon's reign, the nation started splitting up between a northern faction and southern faction.
- Both were deeply in sin and were due the judgement of God.
- God had sent many prophets warning them of a coming judgement if they did not repent and turn back to Him.
 - They did not repent so God used the Babylonians to exact His judgement on the nation of Israel and so began the times of the Gentiles rule over Israel.
 - The times of Gentile rule started at that point and extended all the way to May 14, 1948, when the nation of Israel was established after WW2.
 - Up until that time they had been under the rule of Gentile nations.
 - Daniel chapter 2 & 7 speak of the nations that would rule over them until they became a state.
- In verse 2, Daniel takes it upon himself to read the prophecies concerning Israel written by Jeremiah.
 - **Jeremiah 29:10** *"For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you and cause you to return to this place."*
- That was enough to have Daniel fall on his face and plead with the Lord in one of the greatest prayers in the Bible.
- Grab your bible and read along with me.....(not going to put on the screen)
- Hear this prayer, take it in and meditate on it.

Daniel 9:3-19 Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who

love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land.

O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day—to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You.

"O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You. To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him. We have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His laws, which He set before us by His servants the prophets. Yes, all Israel has transgressed Your law, and has departed so as not to obey Your voice; therefore, the curse and the oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against Him. And He has confirmed His words, which He spoke against us and against our judges who judged us, by bringing upon us a great disaster; for under the whole heaven such has never been done as what has been done to Jerusalem.

"As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth. Therefore, the LORD has kept the disaster in mind, and brought it upon us; for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works which He does, though we have not obeyed His voice. And now, O Lord our God, who brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and made Yourself a name, as it is this day—we have sinned, we have done wickedly!

"O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us. Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's

sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate. O my God, incline Your ear and hear; open Your eyes and see our desolations, and the city which is called by Your name; for we do not present our supplications before You because of our righteous deeds, but because of Your great mercies. O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and act! Do not delay for Your own sake, my God, for Your city and Your people are called by Your name."

- If you ever wanted to know how to pray for the church, here it is.
 - I do not want to dismiss our country in this, but I would rather have the church rise and be what God has called it to be.
 - The needs are almost exact, aren't they.
 - Take this week and read this prayer back to the Lord. Confess our sins and your desire for us to be righteous in His eyes.
 - We are not Israel, but we certainly should pray for the church to truly turn back to Him, to be a church that truly loves God!

- V20-23
 - *Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore, consider the matter, and understand the vision:*

- Daniel is very specific and even says it twice that while he was praying, God answered Him.
- This was the second time Daniel had a visit from Gabriel, the first was in chapter 8, so Daniel was familiar with Gabriel.
 - Our lesson from here would be that we should be diligent in our prayers.
 - Seeking wisdom that can come in no other way.
 - God can and does open the doors of wisdom and we should diligently seek His wisdom verses our own.
 - Even in times of great trials in our lives, times we don't understand the "Why's" of what is happening, we can place our trust in who does know and we can move forward.
 - An example of that would be to Daniel, in chapter 12 of this book, he is told after asking a question, that it is not for him to know.
 - We need to be ok with that answer as well sometimes.
 - Back to our story
- What did Gabriel say?
 - "I have come forth to give you skill to understand."
 - We can assume that Daniel evidently did not have the skill to understand what was going to be told to him.
 - I believe that Daniel assumed that the promised Kiing and Kingdom was going to be set up at the end of this 70-year exile, but God needed him and us to understand that wasn't His plan.
 - Otherwise, there would not have been a need for Gabriel to be there.
- V24
 - *"Seventy weeks are determined
For your people and for your holy city,
To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins,
To make reconciliation for iniquity,*

*To bring in everlasting righteousness,
To seal up vision and prophecy,
And to anoint the Most Holy.*

- We are going to start a timeline and do our best to make it easy to grasp.
 - Gabriel starts with 70 weeks (sevens) are determined.
 - The word for weeks here is “Heptad” in Hebrew meaning units of 7, not literal 7-day weeks.
 - In Hebrew, it literally reads Seventy Sevens.
 - We are going to be able to determine based on the whole of scripture, that is what it means.
 - Leviticus 25:8 gives us a biblical example of the meaning of this time.
 - *‘And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, **seven times seven years**; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years.*
 - *This is seven sevens...*
 - From verse 24, we are looking at a total of 490 years based on the math of 7 x 70.
- Gabriel tells Daniel who this prophecy is for.
 - He says for YOUR people.
 - Who are his people?
 - The Jews
 - And for your Holy City.
 - Where is that?
 - Jerusalem

- Next, Gabriel tells Daniel the purpose.
 - He gives 6 items that are to be accomplished.
 - To finish the transgression
 - To make an end of sins
 - To make reconciliation for iniquity
 - To bring in everlasting righteousness
 - To seal up vision and prophecy
 - To anoint the Most Holy

- Taking these points individually you will see a pattern develop.
 - (Remember – this is a timeline for Israel)

 - What is the transgression that must be finished?
 - Notice that this is singular, meaning an overall total transgression.
 - That would be the Jewish nation denying Jesus at His first coming.
 - The end of the age of the Gentiles will result in all of Israel accepting their Messiah.

 - To make an end of sin.
 - At the fulfillment of this time, Israel will be free of sin.
 - This will require that all of Israel live in their resurrected bodies.
 - It would be the only way that anyone could live sin free.

 - To make reconciliation for iniquity
 - “To Reconcile” in accounting terms is to make something balance.
 - Every single sin has to be accounted for.
 - Jesus reconciled us to Himself by paying the penalty for our sins.

- When Jesus comes and sets up His kingdom, He will reconcile all Israel based on the same payment made at the cross.
- To bring in everlasting righteousness
 - Everlasting is a long time, right?
 - This righteousness will be a new order of society where righteousness reigns.
 - We yearn for righteous leaders, don't we? Yet we do not see very many of those.
 - One day, when Jesus comes to set up His Kingdom, we will have exactly that!
- To seal up vision and prophecy
 - Once Christ comes into His kingdom and takes His rightful place on His throne, all prophecies will have been fulfilled.
 - There will no longer be a need for additional prophecies as Christ will be with us having completed all that God had promised.
- To anoint the Most Holy
 - In the temple, the Most Holy place was always where the presence of God was.
 - In its most literal since here, this will be where Christ goes into the "Most Holy" place in the Millennial Kingdom temple and anoints it with His presence.
 - He will rule from the Most Holy place in that Temple.
- Verse 25
 - *"Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,*

*There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street shall be built again, and the wall,
Even in troublesome times.*

- Gabriel, so far, has told us how long the time will be, who it will be for and the purpose of it.
 - Now he goes in a little deeper to describe how everything is going to take place.
 - There will be a command given to rebuild Jerusalem.
 - He gives Daniel that as a starting point of when the 490-year time frame begins.
 - Someone is going to give a command to rebuild and restore Jerusalem.
 - We get the answer in Nehemiah chapter 2.
 - It says, King Artaxerxes gives a decree in 445 B.C. that allows Nehemiah to go back to restore and build Jerusalem.
- He says there will be a section of time in verse 25 consisting of 49 years.
 - Seven years of sevens
 - $7 \times 7 = 49$ years
 - This is a time to restore and build Jerusalem.
- He then gives a second period of time consisting of 434 years.
 - Sixty-two years of sevens
 - $62 \times 7 = 434$ years
 - Now it's getting exciting, right.
 - Gabriel's message to Daniel at this point was pretty clear.
 - There will be 483 years of Jewish history until the Messiah arrive.
 - Who is Messiah the Prince?
 - Messiah literally means the Anointed One.

- Or, as we know Him, Jesus.
 - In Sir Robert Anderson book, the coming Prince, using a 360-day year (which Israel used in Daniel's day), calculated 173,880 days from the decree to the triumphal entry, fulfilling the prophecy *to the day*.
 - That is incredibly exciting as the Triumphal entry was the day that Jesus presented Himself as the Messiah. Accepting the praise and presenting Himself as the King.
 - Then Gabriel points out that there will be troublesome times as they attempt to re-build Jerusalem.
 - In Nehemiah chapter 4 we know that as the Jews were trying to rebuild the city that they were being attacked by people all around them.
 - It says half of the people worked on construction while the other half carried spears in Nehemiah 4:16.
 - So that would qualify as troublesome times.
- V26
 - *"And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;
And the people of the prince who is to come
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.
The end of it shall be with a flood,
And till the end of the war desolations are determined.*
 - We have concluded the 69 weeks that brought us to the Messiah but there is a 70th week that we still need to account for.
 - But first we see that the Messiah has been cut off.
 - Interesting word used to describe what would happen to Jesus.

- The word cut off is Karat (Ka-rat) which means to sever an object from its source with a violent action. To destroy or kill. A death penalty.
 - That would describe what happened on the cross wouldn't it?
- Then we see another interesting point, that He will not be cut-off for Himself.
 - We know that Jesus came and died for the sins of the world, not Himself.
- Next, we see this event where the city and the sanctuary are destroyed again.
 - In describing who would do all this destruction, he says it would be the people of the prince who is to come.
 - It even describes this destruction as a flood.
 - It would be swift and complete.
- Who are the people of the prince to come?
- In 70 A.D. the Roman army, led by Titus, destroyed the city of Jerusalem and its temple.
 - It was so utterly destroyed that not one stone was left upon another in the Romans' efforts to extract all of the gold that was there from the temple.
 - All of the wares of the temple were taken to Rome as a trophy and the victory over Jerusalem inscribed on the Arch of Titus that is still viewable today.
 - This fulfilled not only the prophetic statement of Gabriel but also of Jesus in the gospels.
 - We do not want to overlook the very important piece talking about a different prince to come.
 - It says that the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the sanctuary.
 - What people did we just discuss that destroyed the temple?

- The people of the Roman Empire.
 - From that we can conclude the prince to come, in the future, will have his roots in Rome.
 - We will discuss this more in the next verse.
- But we are still not into the 70th week yet.
 - There appears to be this gap in time.
 - This means that there is an interval between the 69th and 70th “sevens.”
 - Christ’s crucifixion, then, was in that interval, right after His Triumphal Entry, which concluded the 69th “seven.”
 - This interval was anticipated by Christ when He prophesied the establishing of the church (Matt. 16:18).
 - This necessitated the setting aside of the nation of Israel for a season in order that Christ’s new program for the church might be instituted.
 - Christ predicted the setting aside of the nation while speaking with the Pharisees in (Matt. 21:42–43).
 - *Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone. This was the LORD’s doing, And it is marvelous in our eyes’?*
 -
 - *“Therefore, I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it.*
 - Making the present Church Age the interval between the 69th and 70th “sevens.”
 - Don’t forget that Gabriel’s time frame to Daniel was only for the Jews.
 - The church never figured into that time.

- V27
 - *"Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;
But in the middle of the week
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes
desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined,
Is poured out on the desolate."*
 - Verse 27 takes us back to God dealing with Israel and is the last week of the 70 weeks prophecy.
 - The church age will be done and those who claim Jesus as their Lord and Savior will have been taken away in the Rapture!
 - The prince described in the previous verse is now making a covenant with many.
 - A covenant is described as a treaty or an oath or a promise.
 - It says the prince makes a 7-year treaty or covenant which will start the last week of God dealing with His people.
 - It says he is going to make this covenant with the many which is referring to the nation of Israel.
 - This is a peace treaty that Israel feels compelled to go into for her safety.
 - Turns out to be a deal with the devil.
 - In the middle of this treaty or 3.5 years, the prince or what we know as the antichrist will break the deal and come into the Temple and pronounce himself as god.
 - This is called the abomination of Desolation.
 - The last 3.5 years will be a terrible time of destruction of what is called the Wrath of God.
 - At the end of this period, Christ comes back in what is referred to as His Second Coming and He will establish His throne on earth.
 - This starts His millennial kingdom!

