

Doing hard things well

Daniel 9:24-27

- We are at the end of chapter nine of the book of Danile where one of the most important prophecies is given about the coming of the Messiah Jesus, and what He would accomplish. Daniel before receiving this prophecy first offers a prayer of repentance to The Lord for the sins of the Jewish people, this after seeing the future fate of not only Israel but all of mankind, it led him to get on his knees and repent.
- It's during his repentance that God sends the Angel Gabriel to speak to Daniel and give him understanding about what he saw earlier and what he is about to see now. If we truly want to hear from God we first must bow the knees of our hearts to God in humility, because when there is pride present then The Lord will resist us instead of drawing near to us, which is why so many believers feel so distant from The Lord.

V24-27

- **V22-23** Daniel was told by Gabriel that he has come specifically to do two things > **1st** give him the skill to understand, **2nd** to tell him that he is greatly beloved. Afterward Gabriel says now get ready to consider the matter and understand the vision. Remember after seeing all that he saw about the future of man, **8:27** says Daniel fainted and became ill, that is not good news for the future of man.
- Our politicians, congress, and the president, tell us that we have a great future ahead of us, not according to Daniel, what he sees made him sick. **V24** seven comes from the Hebrew word "**Heptad**" and prior to chapter eight Daniel spoke in Aramaic the language of the gentiles, if he would have continued like this then weeks would have been translated decades or tens as the Greeks thought in units of tens just like we do today, but because it is not written in Hebrew weeks are sevens.
- So seventy weeks are seventy times seven, instead of seventy times ten, as we are going with the Hebrew way of thinking and calculating. Although all these next things affect us and our walk with The Lord this is speaking about the Jews and Jerusalem, not the gentiles or the church, for in this time six things are to happen, the first three have to do with sin, and the last three with righteousness.

1. Finish the transgression
 2. Make an end of sins
 3. Make reconciliation for iniquity
- This was one of the main burdens of Daniel's prayer, dealing with Israel's national sin, how would The Lord accomplish this? By offering a sacrifice that would atone for their sin, that if accepted would bring reconciliation for their iniquity, making an end of their sins. Its here where we are getting to the cross of Jesus Christ, Israel's Messiah > **Math 15:24**- during His earthly ministry Jesus told a Canaanite woman that "He was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel".
 - **Math 10:5-6**- when Jesus sent out the disciples He specifically instructed them "go nowhere near the gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. It was to the Jews first that Jesus came and offered forgiveness of sins and salvation, once they rejected then it opened up to the gentiles > **Rom 1:16, Acts 3:26**- Peter explains this. Jesus initial coming fulfilled the first three purposes about sin mentioned here in Daniel, now for the last three.
 - The last three focuses on righteousness and the future Kingdom, for once He returns
 1. He will establish His righteous Kingdom
 2. In that day OT Prophecies are fulfilled so no more need for visions or prophets
 3. Then The Savior Jesus Christ will finally be received as Kings
 - These six purposes declare answers to Daniel's prayer, as Israel's sin are forgiven, Jerusalem is rebuilt, and the temple and its ministry restored, all because of the atoning death of Jesus Christ on the cross, He accomplishes all of these, this was the answer to Daniel's prayer concerning Israel and their rebellion.
 - **V25-27** in the midst of sharing what The Messiah is going to do, Gabriel mentions a timeframe from which The Messiah will work > seventy times seven which equals to four hundred and ninety years. This is broken up into three significant periods > **1. 49 yrs**- which begins when King Artaxerxes authorizes Nehemiah to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls and restore the gates in **Neh 2:5-8**.

- Remember Cyrus had permitted the Jews to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple but they refused, Artaxerxes had even sent Ezra back in 457 B.C, but they only did a halfway job, it wasn't until Nehemiah in 445 B.C. that things really got done and Jerusalem got back on its feet fulfilling what Daniel saw. By this time forty nine yrs had passed, that's seven weeks passed right there.
- **2.** 434 yrs- From the time that Jerusalem is rebuilt until Messiah comes there is sixty two week period meaning $62 \times 7 = 434$. Jerusalem is up and going, they have some protection but there are troublesome times as this is during the time that Jerusalem is under Roman control. When you add 49 yrs to 434 yrs you get 483.
- When you go back to when the Jews received the decree from Artaxerxes to go and rebuild Jerusalem most historians tell us it was March 14th of 445 B.C.. Using the Jewish calendar of 360 days per yr, once you calculate the 483 yrs from that date you get the exact day Jesus came riding a donkey into Jerusalem offering Himself to Israel as their Messiah. Initially they yelled Hosanna save now, but a few days later they were yelling crucify Him, for we will not have this Man rule over us.
- So He gets killed or cut off, now another time happens as the people of prince who is to come antichrist destroys the city, sanctuary, and causes war everywhere, until a covenant of one week > **3.** 7 yrs- 483 yrs plus 7yrs is 490 yrs just as Gabriel said. In the middle of this Covenant he goes back on his word and persecutes the people stopping the sacrifices and offerings, making an abomination, causing desolation, this is of course the tribulation period, all of this is shown and explained to Daniel.