

Eschatology Week 4

Daniel 9:24-27

Daniel 9:24-27 contains a prophecy given by the angel Gabriel to Daniel that is considered by many to be the most astonishing prophecies given in all of scripture.

It is certainly one of the most important prophecies given when it comes to understanding the rest of end-times prophecy.

Jesus Himself calls our attention to this passage in Matthew 24 in what is known as the Olivet Discourse, Jesus' own discourse on end-times events.

[Mat 24:15 NKJV] 15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

Lets look at Daniel 9 starting in verse 1 to set the stage for this remarkable prophecy.

Verses 1-23

Daniel understands by Jeremiah that the captivity in Babylon would last 70 years.

[Jer 25:11 NKJV] 11 'And this whole land shall be a desolation [and] an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.'

Amazingly enough, Daniel took Jeremiah's prophecy to be literal.

Daniel acknowledges that all that has come upon Israel was prophesied in the Law of Moses.

Remember the Mosaic covenant was conditional and basically said that if the people followed God they would be blessed and if they did not they would be judged.

Daniel recognizes that the land is still theirs though and that they still belong there because the land was given to them unconditionally.

We also can see the unchanging character of God understood by Daniel. When the people of God humble themselves and seek His face, confess their sins and turn from their wicked ways, God is faithful to hear them and heal their land.

Verse 24-27

Verse 24 lays out the scope of the prophecy:

"70 weeks are determined"

Literally "70 sevens"

In Israel, they had weeks of days and years.

The Hebrew word for weeks is Shabuwa or sevens and can be a week of days or a week of years.

This prophecy encompasses 70 seven year periods, or 490 years total.

The time is determined for Daniel's people and for their holy city.

Who is Daniel's people and which city is being spoken of here? (Israel and Jerusalem)

There is something special about the number 490.

It is a Great Jubilee cycle, or a cycle of 10 Jubilee years.

Every 7th year was a Jubilee year where slaves were freed, Land was returned to its owner, and Israel was to allow the land to have a year's rest from being farmed. (Leviticus 25)

The 490th year would be a Great Jubilee year.

It is considered the number of forgiveness by many due to Jesus' reference to it in Matthew 18.

[Mat 18:21-22 NKJV] 21 Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.

God has worked through Israel in 490 years periods since Abram.

- From the birth of Abram to the Exodus
- From Exodus to the Temple
- From the Temple to the End of the Babylonian captivity

The birth of Abram to the Exodus is actually 505 years. There are 15 yrs where Ishmael is the only son of Abram and in a sense Israel is under a usurper or out of fellowship with God because Ishmael was not the promised son.

If you subtract the 15 years of Ishmael before Isaac, you get 490yrs.

From the Exodus until Solomon's temple is actually 621yrs, but when you subtract the 131yrs in that time frame where Israel was in servitude to other nations in that time you again get 490yrs.

From the temple to the end of the captivity was 560 years but 70yrs they were in captivity to Babylon. $560-70=490!$

The prophecy we are looking at tonight lays out the final 490yrs of God's dealings with Israel.

Let's take a closer look at these verses.

Verse 24

70 weeks are determined for the people and their holy city. The focus of the prophecy is specifically Jewish.

To accomplish six things:

- finish transgression
- make an end of sins
- make reconciliation for iniquity
- bring in everlasting righteousness
- seal up vision and prophecy
- anoint the Most Holy

Is transgression finished? Has there been an end of sins? You could argue that Jesus provided reconciliation for iniquity on the cross but what about everlasting righteousness?

Has Israel anointed the Most Holy?

Verse 25

This is a mathematical prophecy given by Gabriel to Daniel.

7 weeks plus 62 weeks = 69 weeks

Many question what this period is broken up into 7 + 62. There are many theories and several of the ones I have heard seem plausible. One being that from the decree of Cyrus to allow the people to return to the land till the walls were complete was a period of 49 years and that would be the 7 weeks mentioned, and then from that point until the Messiah the Prince was the 62 week part.

The trigger to the prophecy is the command to restore and build Jerusalem but not just the city and the temple, but the walls as well.

There are 3 possibilities:

The Decree of Cyrus (Ezra 1:1-4)

The Decree of Darius (Ezra 6:1-12)

The Decree of Artaxerxes (Nehemiah 2:6-8)

Only the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus in Nehemiah 2 deals gives permission to rebuild the wall. The other decrees focused upon the rebuilding of the temple.

So from the decree of Artaxerxes Longimanus until the Messiah the prince would be 69 weeks of years.

We will be relying on the work of Sir Robert Anderson who spent many years studying and recording this information.

This decree was given on March 14th, 445 B.C.

One thing we should remember and will come up often as you study the end-times, is that the Bible consistently uses 360 day years, not 365 day years as we are custom to now.

Even when we get into the book of Revelation, we will see 360 day years used.

So if we take 69 weeks of years and multiply that by 360 day years, we get 173,880 days.

$$69 \times 7 \times 360 = 173,880$$

Looking back at verse 25:

From the command to Messiah the Prince. (Mashiyach Nagiyd)

The Hebrew word Nagiyd is better translated King, it is first used to describe Saul in 1 Samuel.

When did Jesus present Himself as King?

Many times in the Gospels, they tried to make Him king but he would not let them. He always got out of the situation some how.

There is one time though where He not only allows them to worship Him as king but He arranges it.

[Luk 19:29-38 NKJV] 29 And it came to pass, when He drew near to Bethphage and Bethany, at the mountain called Olivet, [that] He sent two of His disciples, 30 saying, "Go into the village opposite [you], where as you enter you will find a colt tied, on which no one has ever sat. Loose it and bring [it here]. 31 "And if anyone asks you, 'Why are you loosing [it]?' thus you shall say to him, 'Because the Lord has need of it.' " 32 So those who were sent went their way and found [it] just as He had said to them. 33 But as they were loosing the colt, the owners of it said to them, "Why are you loosing the colt?" 34 And they said, "The Lord has need of him." 35 Then they brought him to Jesus. And they threw their own clothes on the colt, and they set Jesus on him. 36 And as He went, [many] spread their clothes on the road. 37 Then, as He was now drawing near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works they had seen, 38 saying: " 'Blessed [is] the King who comes in the name of the LORD!' Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

We might miss the significance of this event as Gentiles, but the Pharisees did not, notice their reaction in verse 39:

[Luk 19:39 NKJV] 39 And some of the Pharisees called to Him from the crowd, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."

They knew that the people, by saying the things they were saying in this situation were proclaiming that Jesus was the Messiah and their king! The Pharisees felt that the people were committing blasphemy.

Jesus was fulfilling Zechariah 9:9:

[Zec 9:9 NKJV] 9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He [is] just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

According to Sir Robert Anderson this event occurred on April 6, 32 A.D.

Gabriel told Daniel that from the decree until Messiah the king would be 173,880 days.

March 14, 445 B.C. to April 6, 32 A.D = 173,880 days! (Taking into account leap years etc.)

Jesus presented Himself as king on the exact day prophesied by Gabriel nearly 500 years earlier.

One other thing to remember here is that the book of Daniel was translated into greek and written down in the 3rd century before Christ in what we know as the Septuagint version of the Bible.

Let look a little further at Luke 19.

[Luk 19:40-44 NKJV] 40 But He answered and said to them, "I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out." 41 Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, 42 saying, "If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things [that make] for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. 43 "For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, 44 "and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation."

Jesus pronounces a blindness on the people of Israel because they did not recognize the time He would come to them.

Most of the people here who were crying "blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord", would be crying "Crucify Him!" a few days later.

They were looking for a political leader to overthrow the Roman oppression, and that is not why Jesus came the first time. It is what He will do the second time!

He also pronounces a judgement on the people that they would be besieged and overcome by their enemies.

We know that this exact thing took place in 70 A.D. when Titus Vespasian laid siege to Jerusalem and leveled it.

“will not leave one stone upon another.” This was literally fulfilled. Titus had given orders to leave the Temple standing but a fire was accidentally started in the temple and burned the contents of it causing the gold to melt and seep into the cracks between the stones. To retrieve the gold, Titus ordered the temple deconstructed stone by stone.

We look at Israel today and they are still blinded as a people when it comes to recognizing their Messiah.

For how long will they be blinded?

[Rom 11:25 NKJV] 25 For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

God is not through with Israel. The prophecy in Daniel for his people and their holy city does not end in verse 25.

verse 26

“After 62 weeks” The same as saying **“After 69 weeks”**

The Messiah shall be cut off but not for Himself.

The word for cut off here is karat and means to kill or execute.

He will be executed but not for Himself.

It was not anything He did it was for me that He was killed.

[Isa 53:5 NKJV] 5 But He [was] wounded for our transgressions, [He was] bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace [was] upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.

After the Messiah is cut off, the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

We just looked at this. Who are the people that destroyed the city and the sanctuary?

The Romans. This is why we believe the Anti-Christ will be from the Roman empire. Most scholars believe he will be of European descent, and he may be, but don't forget that the eastern leg of the Roman empire outlasted the western leg by a few hundred years.

He could also be of middle eastern descent. Again I want to point out that no where in scripture are we as the Church told to look for the Anti-Christ, we are told repeatedly to look for Jesus!

“then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week”

This has not happened yet which tells us that there is an interval of time between verse 26 and verse 27. So far, that interval has lasted nearly 2000 years. The Interval represents the Church age.

There are several examples of this interval in scripture. Lets look a one other to get a better understanding.

[Luk 4:16-20 NKJV] 16 So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. 17 And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: 18 "The Spirit of the LORD [is] upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to [the] poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to [the] captives And recovery of sight to [the] blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; 19 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." 20 Then He closed the book, and gave [it] back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

Jesus was reading Isaiah 61:1-2. Lets compare what Jesus read to the passage He was reading.

[Isa 61:1-3 NKJV] 1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD [is] upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to [those who are] bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified."

Jesus stopped just before the part that says "and the day of vengeance of our God"; He stopped at a comma not a period so to speak.

The reason He stopped there is that He did not come to proclaim the day of vengeance of our God at His first coming. That happens at His second coming.

That comma has lasted close to 2000 years.

Other examples of this type of interval in scripture are in Revelation 12:5-6; Isaiah 54:7; Hosea 3:4-5 and there are several others.

This interval is what we call the Church age but it was hidden from the Old Testament prophets.

It is what Paul called the Church a mystery in Romans 16 and Ephesians 5. It was something that had been hidden but is not revealed.

This is why it is so important that one distinguish the difference between Israel and the Church. If you do not clearly distinguish them in your mind, then you will not see an interval here at all. You will apply these verses in some other way.

Verse 27

“Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week”

The “he” refers to the prince who is to come or the guy we know as the Anti Christ.

This verse covers the 70th and final week or 7 year period.

The trigger to the beginning of this week is the coming world leader will confirm a covenant(many believe it to be a peace treaty) for 7 years. This starts the time clock on the 7 year period many call the tribulation.

Many here refers specifically to Israel. The ancient Hebrew says “THE many”

[Isa 28:15 NKJV] 15 Because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, And with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, It will not come to us, For we have made lies our refuge, And under falsehood we have hidden ourselves."

[Zec 11:15-16 NKJV] 15 And the LORD said to me, "Next, take for yourself the implements of a foolish shepherd. 16 "For indeed I will raise up a shepherd in the land [who] will not care for those who are cut off, nor seek the young, nor heal those that are broken, nor feed those that still stand. But he will eat the flesh of the fat and tear their hooves in pieces.

The nation Israel will embrace this coming leader as a political messiah of sorts.

Jesus predicted this in John 5:43

[Jhn 5:43 NKJV] 43 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive.

In the middle of the final week(half-way - defined in Revelation and other places he will break the covenant and commit an act that Jesus referred to as “the abomination of desolation” in Mat 24:15

“Abominations translates an ancient Hebrew word (shiqquwts) that is connected to horrific idolatry (Deuteronomy 29:17, 1 Kings 11:5-7, 2 Kings 23:13). The idea is that the coming prince breaks the covenant and brings an end to sacrifice and offering by desecrating the holy place of the temple with a horrific idolatry.” - Guzik

[Mat 24:15 NKJV] 15 "Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),

Jesus said they will see the abomination standing in the Holy place, which leads many to believe that the the abomination will be when the Anti-Christ enters the Holy of Holies in the temple and declares himself to be God.

Paul referred to this event in 2 Thessalonians 2:

[2Th 2:3-4 NKJV] 3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for [that Day will not come] unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4 who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

Another thing we learn from studying this passage is that there will be a temple rebuilt at some point.

In order for there to be a Holy of Holies to desecrate, there has to be a temple.

“even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate”

There will be an end or a consummation to the desolation. It will be a very troublesome and perilous time for God’s people. This is a promise to them that they will not be completely destroyed and that there will be an end to their suffering.