

Daniel 9 –7 August 2025

“Discerning The Times”

Introduction

*Book’s Outline: 2 halves (historical chronology chap 1-6 & more detailed prophetic visions in chap 7-12)

*1st half foreshadows the overall End Times Timeline & the 2nd half digs deeper into the specifics

*Dan 9 is the prophecy of Daniel’s 70 weeks

*Fundamental to understanding the 7-year Trib

*Yet this chap teaches us much more!

*Daniel is a great example of how to pursue understanding of God’s will, for us & for His big plan

Today, we’ll see 3 ways to grow in understanding God’s plan & will

#1 – We grow in understanding thru His Word (Vs 1-3)

Read Vs 1-2

1. Dan looked into this b/c of his changing times
 - a. Medo-Persians just took over from Babylon
 - b. Read I Chr 12:32 – know the times we're in
2. Bible & prophecy is meant to be trusted, understood & taken literally
 - a. Read Jer 25:11-13 & Jer 29:10 – 70 years was for Israel to be desolate & Babylon to rule
3. What an important reminder, that God uses people to pass forward His eternal truth
 - a. We still bring the Word forward to others

Read Vs 3

1. Though God has His eternal plan that He's orchestrating, we can choose to be a part
2. Daniel didn't play passive or believe He couldn't serve God thru the on-going changes
3. Who among us today will ask the Lord to use us to help others on His behalf while there's time?

#2 – We grow in understanding thru prayer (Vs 4-19) – Read James 1:5

Read Vs 4-15

1. Let's look at God's part in this
 - a. He continues to keep His covenant (vs 4)
 - b. He's remains righteous (vs 7 & 14) though Israel is judged
 - c. He remains loving & forgiving (vs 9)
 - d. He's faithful in keeping His Word (vs 12)
2. What about Israel's part in this
 - a. They rebel against God's Law (vs 5, 11)
 - b. They rebel against God's prophets (vs 6, 10)
 - c. They're ashamed of their deeds (vs 7)
 - d. They have not repented of their sins (vs 13)
3. There's another, what about Daniel's part
 - a. He places himself among Israel as a sinner in need of God's forgiveness (*we, us*) yet no sin is spoken of him
 - b. He sees this is more than just Jer's 70 years

4. How is this more than just Jeremiah's 70 yrs?
 - a. The curse of the Torah has come on them (vs 11-12) – this refers to the blessings & cursing of Lev 26
 - b. *With those who love Him & keep Law* (vs 4)
 - c. Punished but still haven't turned (vs 13-14)
 - d. Eze 4:1-8 shows the fulfillment of this cursing coming up to May 14, 1948

Read Vs 16-19

1. 3 things Daniel asks for to close the prayer
 - a. End your anger toward Jerusalem (vs 16)
 - b. Once again delight in Your city (vs 17)
 - c. Forgive the people, not based on merit, but based on God's compassion (vs 18-19)
2. Being "based on God & not on us" is exactly why we pray *in Jesus' name*
 - a. As w/ Daniel, we pray based on who Jesus is, not based on our own identity

#3 – We grow in understanding thru Godly fellowship (Vs 20-27)

Read Vs 20-21

1. While still praying at 3pm, he gets answer
 - a. Some Bibles say Gabriel was *caused to fly*
 - b. The 2 words are forms of *weary* or *faint*

Read Vs 22-23

1. As Daniel set his mind on God's plan for Israel & humbly prayed, God gives him much more
 - a. Read Luke 8:9-10 – God delights to give us greater insight

Read Vs 24a

1. *Seventy Weeks*
 - a. Weeks simply means a period of 7s & can be days, weeks, years, etc.
 - b. In God's mind judgement is often modeled in days, & meted out in years
 - i. Read Num 14:33-34 – Spied land for 40
 - ii. Read Eze 4:6 – day corresponds to years
 - c. Israel was used to this concept b/c their years were broken into sets of 7 (Sabbath year)

- d. Additionally, Jesus referred to these things as yet future in (Read) Matt 24:15
- 2. We must give Sir Robert Anderson credit for detailing these things out in 1909
- 3. This is specifically about Israel NOT the church

Read Vs 24b

- 1. 1st, finishing this time period will “make an end to sin, iniquity & transgression by making atonement & bring in eternal righteousness”
 - a. This is available now for each individual; David experienced it (Read Psm 32:1-2)
 - b. But this can only be complete when Christ establishes His new Millennial Kingdom
- 2. 2nd, finishing this time period will also “*seal up (or end) visions & prophecy*”
 - a. God’s methods of revealing Himself has increasingly focused over time (Read Heb 1:1)
 - b. Interesting that visions & prophecy hadn’t ended yet as of the time of the early church (Read Act 2:16-17)
 - i. 70 weeks MUST extend beyond that time

3. Finally, finishing this time period will “*anoint the most holy place*”
 - a. The Millennial Temple will be inaugurated
4. All these things are actuated by the blood of Christ & applied when all Israel receives Him in the end of the Tribulation

Read Vs 25

1. When was the degree given to *rebuild the city*?
 - a. As recorded in Neh 2, it was 445 BC
 - b. Previous degrees were given to rebuild the temple, but the city wasn't until 445 BC
 - c. Certainly, Nehemiah recorded how this all happened *during times of distress*
2. 69 weeks of years (483 years) til Messiah comes
 - a. 7 weeks (49 years) of rebuilding Jerusalem in troubling times
 - b. Then another 62 weeks of years (434 years) until Jesus comes
 - c. 173,880 days is from the degree on Mar 14, 445 BC until April 6, 32 AD – Triumphal Entry
 - d. Jesus verified this (Read Luke 19:41-42)

Read Vs 26a

1. After 483 years total *Messiah would be cut off*
 - a. *Cut off* is to kill or be hewn down, but it's the imperfect tense – it's incomplete action
 - b. Oh Jesus was put in the grave, but it wasn't the end of the story!
2. Cut off & *had nothing* or “but nothing of his own”
 - a. Brought to death but not b/c He deserved it

Read Vs 26b

1. The *people of the prince* are the Romans
 - a. The *prince that shall come* is Anti-Christ who comes from Revived Roman Empire (see Dan 2)
 - b. Of course, the Roman destroyed the temple & city shortly after Messiah was cut off in 70 AD

Read Vs 27

1. Anti-Christ will strengthen a covenant w/ Israel for 7 years
 - a. Rev 6:1-2 shows Anti-Christ showing up as a man of peace (Bow w/ no arrows)

- b. Jesus said, I've come in My Father's name & you didn't receive Me, another will come in his own name & him you will receive (John 5:43)
- 2. Finally in the middle of the 7-year Trib A/C desecrates the Temple by stopping sacrifices
 - a. Read II Thes 2:3-4 – Declares he's God
- 3. Now, there's a gap in time between Messiah / Temple destruction (vs 26) & this 7-year covenant
 - a. B/c Jesus referred to this Abomination in Matt 24 as yet future to His time
 - b. 7-year Tribulation is a time when God will once again be focused on Israel, not the church

Conclusion

So, let's be like Daniel, we too can grow in our understanding of God's will & His plan

- 1. **Gain understanding thru His Word**
 - a. There's no other way to discern truth / lies
- 2. **Gain understanding thru prayer**
 - a. Be open to the Lord changing /directing us
- 3. **Gain understanding thru Godly fellowship**
 - a. Friends can speak the direct words needed