

**CULTURE SHOCK**  
**Seventy Sevens**  
**Daniel 9**

Prophecy is such a HUGE subject. It relays divine information concerning what will happen both in heaven and on earth over centuries of time and in multitudes of peoples and nations. It is difficult and sometimes confusing. It also seldom seems to address the big troubles that I deal with on a daily basis: Financial troubles, rocky relationships, physical pain and suffering, and what to watch on TV tonight! Even though we say that we believe God's Word, some of us who follow Christ never take the time to study prophecies contained therein! **But we should consider this: God made sure that prophecy stayed center stage in his Word from beginning to end! He did this to demonstrate his power and his wisdom to those who doubt him by displaying his plan IN ADVANCE so that they could TRUST GOD'S WORD as truth when they read it. So, the study of prophecies that have been fulfilled (and there have been HUNDREDS of these kinds of prophecies) will increase your appreciation for the ACCURACY and AUTHORITY of God's Word. And the study of prophecies that have not yet been fulfilled will increase your ANTICIPATION and motivate your PREPARATION for those divinely decreed events that are YET TO COME.**

The book of Daniel is a crucial KEY that unlocks many of the mysterious prophecies that were given by prophets like Isaiah, Ezekiel and John. And Daniel chapter 9 is actually one of the most important prophetic passages in the entire bible. **In this amazing chapter, Daniel is told exactly when the Messiah will come to the earth, what will happen to him, and what that will reveal to and unleash upon the world in the days afterward.** Stunningly, God relays this information to Daniel in just five or six concise sentences. Before we look at those sentences however, I want us to see what precipitated this heavenly message. **You see, Daniel was a man of the Word and a man of prayer.** Many of his prayers focused on asking God to fulfill his will for his people and his land. This went into overdrive one day when Daniel was reading Jeremiah's prophecies just after Babylon had been conquered, and when Daniel was serving the new Medo-Persian ruler, Darius: **Daniel 9:2 NLT**

**2 During the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, learned from reading the word of the LORD, as revealed to Jeremiah the prophet, that Jerusalem must lie desolate for seventy years.**

Daniel learned from Jeremiah that the captivity would last 70 years. Daniel also knew that he had been an exile in Babylon for about 67 years. This meant that the captivity was almost over! You can imagine Daniel's excitement about this, and it makes sense that it led him to an intense time of prayer. [We will study that prayer next week.] Here is what Jeremiah wrote. **Jeremiah 25:11-12 NLT**

11 This entire land will become a desolate wasteland. Israel and her neighboring lands will serve the king of Babylon for seventy years. 12 "Then, after the seventy years of captivity are over, I will punish the king of Babylon and his people for their sins," says the LORD. "I will make the country of the Babylonians a wasteland forever.

Babylon had already been conquered (she and her people would be devastated a few years later), and Daniel realized that the Jews could soon be returning to the Beautiful Land in a very short time. This was music to his ears! But he had also been given the sad, scary visions of chapters 7 and 8, so he knew that the return to the land was not going to be rosy. He was about to learn that God's plan was bigger than anyone could possibly have imagined. **God had punished his people by removing them out of their land for 70 years because of their rebellion, but now he was going to show Daniel that there were some more "Sevens" in store for his chosen people. Daniel 9:24 NIV**

24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place.

The first thing that Daniel is told is that these seventy sevens have been determined, or "marked out" for God's people. **You see, these sets of seven meant that the Jews still had many years of subjection to the Gentiles left in their future. They were not yet READY to receive the Kingdom.** This broke Daniel's heart, but he knew that this decree could not be changed! In fact, they were the answer to his prayers! **God said that these seventy sevens would allow him to complete six key tasks.** They are the reasons why these "sevens" had to happen.

**First, God said that he was going "to FINISH transgression."**

This means that God is going to DO AWAY with rebellion on the earth. He is going to give rebels their final opportunities to do things their way, and then he is going to wipe rebellion off of the face of the earth. Can you imagine that? There will be a day on this earth when there are no roving bands of rebels wandering the earth stealing and raping and killing vulnerable people. There will be a time when there will be no arrogant defiance of God's holy and peaceful ways. When God says that he will FINISH something, then you can be sure that he will be thorough in his work. The word implies that he will **"bring it to its completion."** God uses even rebellion in his sovereignty to accomplish his perfect will. I have said before, you can either cooperate with God in carrying out his will, or he can use your petty rebellion to accomplish his purposes, and then justly judge you for your defiance. This requires his holy patience as this transgression reaches its zenith. **This phrase also includes the transformation of the heart of a vast number of Jewish people. Today, they have**

rejected their Messiah, but O.T. prophets predict that they will turn back to God in great numbers before the end of all things. **Zechariah 12:10 NLT**

10 "Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on the people of Jerusalem. They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. They will grieve bitterly for him as for a firstborn son who has died.

Zechariah goes on to say, **"on that day, a fountain will be opened for the people of Israel . . . to cleanse them from all their sins and impurities!"** God's chosen people will never rebel against him again! What a great day that will be before the close of these final "sevens."

**Next, God said that he will "put an END to sin."**

This is another aspect of both the PATIENCE and the WRATH of Almighty God. To **"put an end"** means to **"pay out in full, to finish."** God will allow sin to continue only until he brings it to its final moment of PAYMENT. [Dr. R. G. Lee had a sermon that he used to preach called "Payday Someday."](#) That is such a vivid truth. Payday is coming for those who reject the payment that has already been made. Now, it is all "preachy" for me to talk about these huge concepts with such clean, broad strokes. But the reality will be beyond wonderful for this earth. Let me illustrate why this truth is so beautiful by showing you a simple picture. **[Place picture of tin roof on the screen.]**

My friend Pat Melancon does disaster relief for Southern Baptists all over the world through our organization called **BGR (Baptist Global Relief)**. This is a picture that he took of a building that had been rebuilt in Nepal after the recent earthquake there. He asked me how much I thought that the tin roof costs. I guessed that it was about 20 or 30 dollars. My kids guessed 100 dollars. Pat then stunned us by saying that the going rate for a tin roof in Nepal right now is ONE DAUGHTER. **[Put picture of little girl up on screen.]**

These children that are being traded for a tin roof are then sold into the sex slave trade. Can you even imagine such a thing? Sin is a sick, perverse, destructive thing; and it is the cause of all of the sickness and pain and suffering and death that exists on this earth. And one day soon, at the CLOSE of these seventy "sevens," God is going to bring a FINAL END to sin on this earth. Creation will rejoice and we will live forevermore without the CURSE of the presence of sin on this earth or in our own hearts. Even so, COME LORD JESUS! Until that day, we who follow Christ are privileged to serve those who are being destroyed by sin by sharing Christ with them as we meet their needs. [Pat said that he is finding great joy in the fact that BGR has now put tin roofs on more than 450 homes in the last few weeks. His teams are providing food and materials for these poverty-stricken people, but they are also saving lives and sharing the Gospel with those who have no hope without](#)

**Christ. Hallelujah!!** By the way, if you wish to contribute to the BGR, you can do it directly through their website at **GOBGR.org**, or you can bless them by buying online through Amazon using **Amazon Smile** and choosing them as the charity that you want a set percentage of your purchase cost to benefit. I urge you to do that. You save money, and you contribute to a very worthy cause.

**The third task of the seventy “sevens” is “to ATONE for wickedness.”**

This is the promise that, during these sevens, God is going to make a full atonement for the sins of the world. The word **“atone”** can be rendered **“to cover, purge, make reconciliation, or to pardon.”** Isn’t that a beautiful picture? God promised that he was going to create a means by which he could forgive and wipe away our sins forevermore so that we could be reconciled to God. He did just that by sending his Son to die in our place and for our salvation. Paul said it this way in the N.T. book of Colossians: **Colossians 1:21-22 NLT**

**"21 This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. 22 Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him without a single fault."**

This includes YOU, if you choose to follow Christ and accept his gift of salvation! This was God’s eternal plan, and his words to Daniel gave the world one more peek at the glory and context of that plan in the midst of the “sevens.”

**The fourth task of the seventy “sevens” is “to bring in everlasting righteousness.”**

This is a promise of lasting peace through the presence of genuine holiness. The work of the Messiah will be so complete that it will open the way for righteousness to become the standard and the norm for this earth. This will be the ultimate fruit of our salvation. I love that! It means far more than just the ABSENCE of SIN; it refers to the glory of the presence of purity and holiness. I thought of the way that the N.T. speaks of the change that Christ works in our lives, and it has to do with the effect of righteousness in our lives. **Ephesians 4:22-29 NLT**

**22 throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. 23 Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. 24 Put on your new nature, created to be like God--truly righteous and holy. 25 So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. 26 And "don't sin by letting anger control you." Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, 27 for anger gives a foothold to the devil. 28 If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. 29 Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.**

Can you imagine living in a world that is filled with THAT Spirit? You won't even have to lock your front door and you will be able to leave your keys in the car without fear of it being stolen!

**The fifth task of the seventy "sevens" will be "to seal up vision and prophecy."**

This refers to the FINAL FULFILLMENT of ALL of the prophecies that are found in the Scriptures. Everything that God has promised to bring to pass WILL come to pass, and not a single "jot or tittle" will go unfulfilled. One day, we will be able to look through all of the pages of Scripture and see that God has come through in every promised detail. And then, there will be NO MORE visions or prophecies. God will "Seal," or "lock" them up forever.

**The final task of the seventy "sevens" will be "to anoint the most holy place."**

This is a reference to the fact that JERUSALEM, the City of God, will once again be the physical dwelling place of the Incarnate Christ. God will dwell on the earth with his people. This is what was echoed by the Apostle John: **Revelation 21:2-3 NLT**

2 And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. 3 I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them.

God is going to anoint the most holy place with his very presence! Christ will reign on this earth over the nations. That is a glorious day, and it is CLOSER than we can imagine. But before this time, the seventy "sevens" have to be fulfilled. Now, I want to close this message by showing the fact that 69 of these 70 sevens has already been fulfilled. Here is what Daniel is shown: **Daniel 9:25 NLT**

25 Now listen and understand! Seven sets of seven plus sixty-two sets of seven will pass from the time the command is given to rebuild Jerusalem until a ruler--the Anointed One--comes. Jerusalem will be rebuilt with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.

Daniel knew that 70 years was the total length of the captivity. Context, and now history, has shown that these seventy "sevens" were a reference to YEARS. So, the first seven "sevens" would amount to 49 years. The time clock for these years would begin ticking when the command was given just a few years after Daniel received this prophecy. During the time of Nehemiah, King Artaxerxes gave him permission to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild its walls. Ezra had already rebuilt the temple, but the rebuilding of the walls in 445 B.C. marked the moment that Jerusalem once again became a capital city for the Jewish people. The first 49 years covered the time from Nehemiah to Malachi and the close of the Old Testament. This was a time

when the city was rebuilt **“with streets and strong defenses, despite the perilous times.”** If you read these books, then you will see that it was indeed a perilous period filled with opposition and difficulty. But there was more to come. After this, Daniel is told that there will be 62 more sets of seven, or 434 more years before the next verse would happen. **Daniel 9:26 NLT**

**26 "After this period of sixty-two sets of seven, the Anointed One will be killed, appearing to have accomplished nothing, and a ruler will arise whose armies will destroy the city and the Temple. The end will come with a flood, and war and its miseries are decreed from that time to the very end.**

This verse is PACKED with information. The Anointed One is the Messiah, whom we know is Christ Jesus. Daniel is told that he will come at the end of the 69 sevens, or in 490 years (49 + 434); beginning with the decree of Artaxerxes. A scholar named Sir Robert Anderson did all of the work figuring the number of days in a Jewish year and he concluded that this came to 173,880 days, or 483 Jewish years. Thus, the 70 sevens began on March 14, 445 B.C., and ended on April 6, 32 A.D. This is certainly just before the time of the death of Christ, but many scholars agree that it is the exact date when Jesus made his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Passion Week! This could have been the day that the Jews received their King, but they rejected him (John 1:10), and their opportunity passed. This is the very day on which Christ made the following statement that echoed what Daniel was told 490 before: **Luke 19:41-44 NLT**

**41 But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. 42 "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes. 43 Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. 44 They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not accept your opportunity for salvation."**

Jesus grieved because he knew that his people's time of suffering was nowhere near an end, and that **the city of Jerusalem would once again be destroyed in just a few years by the Roman General Titus in 70 A.D. The miseries of the Jewish people would last for many more centuries, right up to our time today.** But their suffering would be our salvation, because the Age of Grace would begin with the death of Christ and the beginning of the Church Age. Daniel had no idea of the concept of the Church, but the GAP between the 69<sup>th</sup> Week and the 70<sup>th</sup> Week is OUR SEASON OF SALVATION! This could only happen because the Messiah was **“cut off” (“to kill or destroy”)** when he was revealed to his people. It will seem as if he had accomplished NOTHING, but we all know better. He did not at that time receive the Kingdom and set up his capital in Jerusalem, but he opened the way for all of the Gentiles and Jews

who asked to make their heart his home and their body his Capital City! I cannot help but repeat the words of the Apostle Paul in praise of God for his wisdom and grace in this plan! **Romans 11:28-36 NLT**

28 Many of the people of Israel are now enemies of the Good News, and this benefits you Gentiles. Yet they are still the people he loves because he chose their ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. 29 For God's gifts and his call can never be withdrawn. 30 Once, you Gentiles were rebels against God, but when the people of Israel rebelled against him, God was merciful to you instead. 31 Now they are the rebels, and God's mercy has come to you so that they, too, will share in God's mercy. 32 For God has imprisoned everyone in disobedience so he could have mercy on everyone. 33 Oh, how great are God's riches and wisdom and knowledge! How impossible it is for us to understand his decisions and his ways! 34 For who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice? 35 And who has given him so much that he needs to pay it back? 36 For everything comes from him and exists by his power and is intended for his glory. All glory to him forever! Amen.

Do you realize what a miracle the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter of Daniel really is? It is a specific promise about the coming of the Lord Jesus, of the salvation that he made available for all people, and of the final fulfillment of God's plan for the ages. The final week of the sevens is still yet to come. There are 7 more years to go, and they will begin with the unveiling of the Anti-Christ. We will look at that final "seven," and that final verse in Daniel 9 in just a couple of weeks. I just want to know, ARE YOU READY for the LAST DAYS? Have you accepted Christ as the payment for your sins, and have you made your heart his Capital City? If not, then you can today.

Let's pray.



## OUTLINE OF MESSAGE

### Introduction

#### **The TIMING of Daniel's prayer and the answer: (9:1-2)**

\*The PROPHECY of JEREMIAH (**Jeremiah 25:1-12 and 29:10-11**)

-Like Daniel, we must pay attention to the signs!

\*Cyrus (note the year of this vision!) and his Decree

\*The 70 Years of Captivity

-The REASON for the 70 years: Sabbath Rest (490 years)

-The RESOLVE of the 70 years: Process of restoration to the land

-The RESULT of the 70 years: Discipline/Extension of time of Gentiles

#### **The PROMISE of Seventy "Sevens": (9:24)**

\*The Future/History of Israel and the Times of the Gentiles

-Israel was not READY to receive the Kingdom

\*This prophecy was centered on the Jews and Jerusalem (9:24a)

-It was DECREED for YOUR PEOPLE and the HOLY CITY

-This meant that their SUBJECTION to Gentiles was not over!

\*This grieved Daniel/confirmed vision of Daniel 8)

-God's plan was to REDEEM the Gentiles as well as the Jews

#### **The ultimate PURPOSE of God's divine PLAN: (9:24b)**

\*To FINISH TRANSGRESSION

\*To put an END to SIN

-Refer to the HORROR and SHAME of sin and transgression:

\*Old and New Testament accounts of sin and its devastation

\*Refer to PICTURE from NEPAL of the TIN ROOF and the little girl

-Point to BGR and Amazon smile

\*To ATONE for WICKEDNESS

-Demonstrate the BEAUTY OF ATONEMENT

\*Use key scriptures about our atonement from WE BELIEVE

\*To bring in EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS

-The revelation of Christ as KING on this earth and forevermore.

\*Remember the promise of Daniel 2 and the stone

-Point out the present beauty of righteousness in God's redeemed people

\*Refer to Ephesians 4 (Sin no more . . . work and give, etc.)



\*To SEAL UP vision and prophecy

- ALL PROPHECIES will be FULFILLED at the end of the 70 sevens
- No more need for restoration! All things will be eternally NEW!

\*To ANNOINT the Most Holy Place

- Jerusalem will become the CAPITAL CITY of King Jesus  
**Ezekiel 42:7 NLT**
- Point out the glory of the millennium and eternity future
- Lamb and the lion, beauty of heaven, Revelation 21

**The PROPHECY of the MESSIAH: Seven “Sevens” and 62 “Sevens.”**

\*Daniel was already focused on units of YEARS (CAPTIVITY=70 YEARS)

- Seventy “sevens” = 490 years
  - \*First seven “sevens” = 49 years
  - \*Remaining 62 “Sevens” = 434 years

\*The first seven Sevens (49 years): From Nehemiah to Malachi

- This began in 445 BC – Decree of Artaxerxes: **Nehemiah 2:1-8**
- \*The walls of Jerusalem were built (became a city again!).

\*The remaining 62 “sevens” (434 years): End of the O.T. to the presentation of the Messiah.

- \*See Sir Robert Anderson’s work from The Coming Prince
- \*Passion Week and the TRIUMPHAL ENTRY:

Listen to the way that the O.T. prophet Zechariah pictured the public entrance of the Messiah into the city. **Zechariah 9:9 NASB**

9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

\*Christ’s sorrowful words: **Luke 19:41-42 NLT**

41 But as he came closer to Jerusalem and saw the city ahead, he began to weep. 42 "How I wish today that you of all people would understand the way to peace. But now it is too late, and peace is hidden from your eyes.

\*The Seventy Sevens was fulfilled exactly on the DAY that Jesus entered Jerusalem!  
-This is why Jesus was so grieved for the Jews especially ON THAT DAY!

**The REJECTION of the Messiah and the REDEMPTION of the world!**

\*The Jews rejected their Messiah as Savior: **John 1:10-11 NIV ?**

\*The Messiah would then be “cut off.” **Daniel 9:26a NIV**

-Jesus was crucified at the end of the 69 weeks; just as Daniel was told!

-There was “nothing for him”:

\*That is, he did not at that point RECEIVE and set up the KINGDOM

-To the Jews as a nation, it looked like complete failure, BUT ...

-This opened the way for mystery of the AGE OF GRACE (the Church Age)

\*See **Romans 11:28-36 NLT**

\*Daniel learned that the city would ONCE AGAIN be destroyed: **Daniel 9:26b NIV**

\*Jesus echoed this prophecy: **Luke 19:43-44 NLT**

43 Before long your enemies will build ramparts against your walls and encircle you and close in on you from every side. 44 They will crush you into the ground, and your children with you. Your enemies will not leave a single stone in place, because you did not accept your opportunity for salvation."

**There is still ONE SET OF SEVENS (7 YEARS) LEFT TO BE FULFILLED!**

\***Daniel 9:27 NLT**

\*This sets the stage for the RISE and GREAT DESTRUCTION of the Anti-Christ.

\*This ushers in the KINGDOM AGE, beginning with the Millennium and then on into eternity.