

# Daniel's 70 Weeks

## Daniel 9

INTRODUCE SANDY and DAVID LINGERFELT

**INTRODUCTION:** Leopold Coen a European Rabbi studied the portion of Daniel we are reading today and he drew the conclusion that Messiah had already come. Verse 26 tells us that Messiah will come before the destruction of the temple, which happened in 70 AD.

One day he approached an older rabbi and asked, "where is the Messiah" the rabbi didn't know the answer to the Question but he said, "New York City". So Leonard Coen sold everything he owned and bought a ticket to NY. He came to NYC and he walked up and down the city streets searching for the Messiah.

One night he heard singing coming from a mission church and walked in to hear the Minister explaining that **Jesus was the Messiah**. That night he gave his heart to Christ, and later started his own mission and began the first American **Board of Missions to the Jews**. it started because a man read the passage before us today.

Many believe this passage to be the backbone of all prophecy. This is because, it serves as the skeletal outline into which all prophetic events fit.

It is very difficult to understand Mat.24, or the book of Rev without Daniel 9.

### **TEXT: Daniel 9:1–10:21 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans—

So this is during the reign of the Medo-Persian empire, specifically under the rule of Darius.

<sup>2</sup> in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

So notice that Daniel is reading Jeremiah. For Daniel, Jeremiah was a contemporary. He was prophesying during the Babylonian invasion. In other words, for you and I Jeremiah wrote and prophesied well over 2500 years ago. For Daniel, it all happened when he was a boy. His mom likely took Daniel to hear Jeremiah preach.

Now notice that Daniel observes - the number of years that Israel would be in captivity - 70 years. Jeremiah 25:11 and 29:10 that they would be under His discipline for 70 years.

Now this is how the scriptures work. You read your bible and then suddenly something you've read 100 times before leaps off the page and come alive as if you were reading it for the first time. That's likely what happened to Daniel. He sees that it says the judgement will last 70 years - that's the span of one generation. He does some quick math in his head and realizes, that time is approaching an end.

<sup>3</sup> Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

Notice that Daniel responded to revelation with intercession. One may ask, "why pray now". God has already said that it would end in 70 years, why not get some popcorn, sit back and watch the show?

Well, God who ordained the END of 70 years captivity, also ordained the means to that end - Daniel's prayer.

**LISTEN:** the Bible promises us that people of every tribe and tongue will trust Jesus and gather around his throne. Does that mean we don't need to witness and do missions? It's going to happen. NO! It motivates and emboldens our witness, it is a guaranteed enterprise.

*Notice how Daniel prays...*

<sup>4</sup> I prayed to the Lord my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

So Daniel begins his prayer by proclaiming truth about the Character of God. God's character is the basis by which we pray, and you learn His Character by reading His word - you see how God has interacted with others, what His promises are, and you pray on that basis.

Notice Daniel's confession...

<sup>5</sup> we have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. <sup>6</sup> We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land. <sup>7</sup> To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to all Israel, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you.

So Daniel is saying that all God has done in punishing His people has been right and just.

15 And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a **name for yourself**, as at this day, we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

James tells us that one of the reasons our prayers are not answered is because we ask amiss that we might spend it on our lusts. Daniel doesn't do that here - this is about God's great name.

Always check your motive - ask yourself is this about God or about me? Do you ask God to bless your finances so you can get more, have more, have bigger? OR do you want to give more, give bigger? That will often determine God's response.

19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name."

**Now Notice verse 20 -**

20 **While I was speaking and praying**, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God, <sup>21</sup> **while I was speaking in prayer**, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice.

Now notice, Daniel had not been in Jerusalem in over 70 years. At the temple the evening sacrifice happened at 3PM. Jews would gather and pray at the temple. But, for Daniel, even though that structure was remove - Daniel continued to bow toward Jerusalem and pray at that time. COVID has done a lot to reveal thee depth and discipline of our faith - many of you have stayed with it. You've gathered online with us despite the challenge, because you are like Daniel.

Notice also that Daniels prayer was so intense that he didn't even notice the approach of this Angel - Gabriel and to touch Daniel to make him aware of his presence.

22 He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. <sup>23</sup> At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.

Now notice, Daniel is reading his bible. He calls upon the Character of God... when he first opened his mouth to pray, the Father dispatched his best angel in answer to Daniel's prayer.

**ILLUSTRATION:** Do you see the heart of the Father? It's like the father of the prodigal. He has standards. While the son was subject to the Father's standards he enjoyed all that the father had. But when he left the standard he left the blessing. But dad stayed on the porch watching, he met him half way when the son came home.

**Here is the answer from God -**

<sup>24</sup> “Seventy weeks (literally 70 7’s so this is not a week of days, but a week of years - in other words **490 years**) are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

So the remainder of human history can be understood as occurring in 490 years, then the Kingdom of God will be establish forever and ever.

So the big number we have to understand is 490 years.

Now if God says all of human history will come to it’s climax in 490 years, the obvious question is - when does the countdown begin? The next verse answers that for us.

<sup>25</sup> Know therefore and understand that **from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem** to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks.

Ok the decree he refers to happens under to rule of the **Persian King Artaxerxes**. We read about the decree in the book of **Nehemiah**.

### **Daniel 9:25 (ESV)**

<sup>25</sup> Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be **seven weeks**. Then for **sixty-two weeks** it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.

So, 49 years plus 434 years - for a total of 483 years. So God says in 483 years from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem - that Messiah is coming.

Now, you can do some rough arithmetic in your head and get an estimate of when that will be. **The decree was issued in 445 BC**

445BC, go forward 483 years... so go forward 445 years, that gets you to the year ZERO, or to the AD’s... you are left with 38, or the year 38AD.

We have 365 days in a year, Jewish calendar has 360. When you figure in the leap years it brings you down to 33AD.

Now if I can figure that out and you can figure that out - can you imagine Daniel calculating and discovering exactly when the King of Kings was coming.

NOW - keep in mind Daniel’s fame was massive in the middle east. He was considered a prophet in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Daniels writings would be studied by the wise men of every major empire. Now stay with me...He has told us clearly that in 483 years Messiah would be here.

In the Jewish economy one on served as a Priest until the age of 30. There was something about that age that seemed to be significant.

- If we assume that Messiah would begin his reign at the age of thirty.
- Then if we subtract 30 from the time Daniel gives us, we can deduce approximately when Messiah would be born.
- If there was any uncertainty as to the specific time of His birth - what clued them in to the specifics? A STAR - this is Christmas in July.

...it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. <sup>26</sup> And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one **shall be cut off and shall have nothing.**

So there you see the death of Messiah.

26b. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.

In 70AD Rome attacked Jerusalem and in the words of Jesus, "They did not leave one stone on top of another". They burned the temple then turned over each stone to collect the molten gold.

So that takes us 69 weeks of years, or 483 years. It tells us exactly when Jesus would come, when he would die on a cross.

Now, one week of years is missing. Messiah is cut off in 33AD. Over 2 Millenia have passed and the final WEEK - 7 years has not been fulfilled.

The last book of your bible is given to that final week. When Jesus ascends into Heaven something that is called in the NT 7 times a mystery occurred. We call it the church age.

Remember, Jesus came unto his own and his own received Him not. From there Jesus does something that every high school football coach has done at one time or another.

**ILLUSTRATION:** A star athlete is called a **blue chip** - he is the best of the best. But if he gets cocky, the coach will bench him and call up what is called a "cow chip" recruit. 165 lbs soaking wet. That coach will train him and play him in order to stoke some humility in the blue chip, and ultimately make the blue chip useful again.

Well God did that with Israel - he benched them. For the last 2000 years God has called a people from every tribe and tongue and formed a people for himself.

This is the argument of Romans 11 - natural branch (Jews) broken off, unnatural branch (Gentiles) grafted in. In hopes that the Jews would yearn for their Messiah and trust Him.

The final 7 years will not occur until that happens and the church is taken off the scene. You see the catalyst for it in verse 27.

27 And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”

God gives you a lot of information in that verse. Here is what we see: **HE** in verse 27 refers to the **Prince** of verse 26. The pronoun has reference to the antecedent noun. That is AntiChrist, the little horn we have been introduced to.

Now remember what we know so far - a ten nation federation will emerge from the ruin of the Old Roman Empire - a ruler will come forth speaking great things and uproot three other rulers. He will lead this (now 7) nation federation.

AntiChrist (this Gentile ruler) will make a peace treaty with Israel for 7 years. The signing of that treaty starts the countdown clock of the final tribulation period.

Now keep in mind - in Daniel's day, Israel was not an independent Nation. For most of history they were not. Not only that they didn't not even occupy the land.

So here Daniel is telling us that Israel will be REGATHERED and RECONSTITUTED.

That happened in 1948. Prior to 1948 this was a very difficult passage to preach.

We are told he will put an end to temple sacrifice, so that presumes that temple sacrifice will be happening.

There is no Temple currently. So what are we watching for? We are watching the temple mount that is currently in the hands of Muslims. Israel could lay claim to that temple mount any day, erect a tabernacle, reinstitute the OT sacrificial system overnight.

When that happens, the middle east will be in an uproar. We will be on the brink of WWII. Then AntiChrist steps in and brings a peace treaty. People will be saying, "Peace, Peace, but there will be no Peace".

Jesus told his disciples, "when you see these things take place, know that I am at the door".

**ILLUSTRATION:** I remember when Julie took a pregnancy test and it came back positive for the first time. Something was coming, lots of things were going to change... the next 9 months of my life revolved around the expectation of our child's arrival.

Well, folks... let me tell you - this world is pregnant for judgement, the test is positive.

Someone is coming... we don't know when... but I can tell you Jesus Christ is coming again...and he has every expectation that the rest of your life is supposed to revolve around that reality... Let us pray.

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