

# The Arrival of the Messiah

## 5 Day Devotional

### *Day 1*

Daniel 9:20–23; Daniel 9:24

#### Devotional

Daniel has been in exile for decades. He has read Jeremiah's prophecy about 70 years of captivity and realizes that season is almost over. So he prays—earnestly, repeatedly, confessing his own sin and the sin of his people. While he is still praying, the angel Gabriel comes with a message from God.

Notice two key details: Before Daniel even finishes praying, God has already sent an answer. Daniel doesn't feel that at first—he only feels his weariness (v. 21). But in heaven, the "answer" has already been dispatched.

God reveals that history is not random. He has decreed (set, fixed) "seventy sevens"—a structured, purposeful timeline—for Israel and Jerusalem that will end in rebellion finished, sin dealt with, iniquity wiped away, and everlasting righteousness established. Daniel's situation did not instantly improve when he prayed. The Babylonians were still in charge, Jerusalem was still in ruins, and Israel was still scattered. Yet God wanted Daniel to know: "I am not late. I have appointed times and seasons. Nothing is out of My control."

You live in a world that feels chaotic—culturally, politically, personally. But Daniel 9 reminds you that God is not improvising. He doesn't react; He decrees. He's not only the God of "someday"; He's the God who hears you "at the beginning of your petitions" and weaves your current season into His larger story.

#### Application

**Reflection:** How many times do you assume God is silent or absent simply because you do not see immediate change after you pray? What kinds of seasons has God brought you through already that you only understood after they ended?

**Action:** Choose one past season that was confusing or painful. Briefly list one or two ways you now see God's hand in it.

**Prayer:** "Lord, thank You that You appoint times and seasons and that nothing is random to You. Teach me to trust that You hear me at the very beginning of my prayers, even when I feel weary and see no change. Help me to see my current season through Your eyes and rest in Your perfect timing. In Jesus' name, amen."

## Day 2

Daniel 9:25–26a; Luke 2:25–32; Acts 1:9–11

### Devotional

Gabriel tells Daniel that from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem until “Messiah the Prince” appears and is “cut off” will be sixty-nine “sevens”—a specific, measurable span of years. That decree is issued in 444 BC. Scholars doing the math have shown that this timeline lands right around the time of Christ’s public ministry and crucifixion. What does that mean? The first coming of Jesus was not a vague hope. It was timed. It was promised. It was scheduled. Yet most religious leaders missed it. They knew the Scriptures intellectually, but they were blind spiritually. Meanwhile, people like Simeon and Anna were watching, praying, expecting. Simeon had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Lord’s Messiah before he died. When Mary and Joseph bring baby Jesus into the temple, Simeon recognizes Him instantly. He had aligned his expectations with God’s promises, not with the culture around him. The same Jesus who fulfilled the prophecy of being “cut off” has also promised to come again “in the same way” as He ascended (Acts 1:11). If His first coming was precisely on time, His second will be no less exact. Prophecy is not trivia; it is motivation. It tells you that God is dependable, that His promises are not wishful thinking. It exposes the danger of being spiritually busy yet spiritually blind. And it calls you to live as someone who expects Jesus to keep all of His word, not just the parts that already happened. Your life is lived between two comings of Christ. Are you living like someone who believes Jesus truly came right on time—and will return just as surely?

### Application

**Reflection:** How many times do you treat Jesus’ return as a vague idea rather than a definite promise on God’s calendar? What kinds of religious habits or knowledge might be keeping you busy yet dull to what God is actually doing?

**Action:** Identify one area of life where you are living as if this world is all there is. Decide one small adjustment that would make sense if you really believed Jesus’ return could be near (e.g., more generous, more intentional conversation, less compromise).

**Prayer:** “Lord Jesus, You came exactly as the Father promised, and You were ‘cut off’ for my sake. You also promised to return. Guard me from becoming spiritually busy but blind. Tune my heart like Simeon’s—to Your promises, not to the noise of the culture. Help me live today as someone who truly expects to see You. Amen.”

## Day 3

Daniel 9:26–27; Matthew 24:15; Matthew 16:18

### Devotional

After describing the 69 “weeks” leading up to Messiah’s death, Daniel’s prophecy does something intriguing: it pauses. Verse 26 says, “After the sixty-two sevens, the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing.” Then it jumps forward to the destruction of Jerusalem (70 AD) and a future “prince” who will make a covenant for one final “seven,” break it midway, and bring an “abomination of desolation.” Many Bible students understand this as a prophetic gap: the time between Jesus’ first coming and the final 70th week—a time we are still living in. The Old Testament prophets often saw the mountaintops of Messiah’s first and second coming without clearly seeing the long valley in between. But you live in that in-between.

What is Jesus doing in this gap? He told us: “I will build My church, and the gates of Hades will not overpower it” (Matthew 16:18). His first coming accomplished redemption. His ongoing work in this age is the building of His church. That means your ordinary days are not filler. They are part of Christ’s construction project. The “gap” is not wasted time; it is mission time.

At the same time, Daniel 9:27 and Jesus’ words about a future “abomination of desolation” (Matthew 24:15) remind you that this age will not drift into a peaceful utopia. Scripture anticipates deception, spiritual opposition, and increasing darkness. God has intentionally placed you in this prophetic “in-between.” You are not late and you are not early. You are alive at your appointed time, with work to do while Christ builds His church and moves history toward that final week.

### Application

**Reflection:** How many times do you treat your current season as spiritual “filler” instead of part of Christ’s building project? What kinds of opposition or darkness around you cause you to pull back when Scripture calls you to be more intentional?

**Action:** Identify one specific relationship (family, church, neighbor, workplace) where you can consciously participate in Jesus’ project of building His church this week—through encouragement, truth, service, or sharing the gospel. Do one concrete thing in that relationship this week.

**Prayer:** “Lord, thank You that this in-between time is not an accident. Thank You that Jesus is building His church right now and that my life can be part of that work. Open my eyes to see my ordinary days as part of Your eternal plan. Give me courage to stand and shine even as the world grows darker. Use me in this season for Your glory. Amen.”

## Day 4

Romans 8:18, 28; Job 1:20–22; Psalm 46:10

### Devotional

Daniel prayed in “extreme weariness” (Daniel 9:21). Israel was in a painful season—exiled, scattered, their city in ruins. It would have been easy to despair and assume God was finished with them. Instead, God reveals that even their suffering fits into His larger purposes. Romans 8:18 says, “The sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us.” Verse 28 adds that “all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to His purpose.” Notice: it does not say all things are good. It says God works through all things for good—His good, which includes conforming you to the image of Christ (v. 29). Job is another example. He was described as blameless and upright before his trials, yet God used intense suffering to give Job deeper humility, clearer understanding, and richer worship. Job ended his story not with all his questions answered, but with a greater vision of God and himself. Your seasons of pain may feel pointless. They may feel like spiritual interruptions. But biblically, they are often seasons of intensified work by God in you. In those moments, God invites you not just to speak in prayer, but also to receive: “Be still, and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10). Stillness is not passivity; it is attentive trust. It is making space not only to unload your heart, but to listen—to let God realign your perspective, expose your idols, and deepen your roots. Even in your hardest seasons, God is not wasting your pain.

### Application

**Reflection:** How many times do you measure God’s goodness by how comfortable your current season feels? What kinds of painful seasons have actually produced more patience, wisdom, or dependence on God in you?

**Action:** Set aside at least ten uninterrupted minutes today simply to “be still” before God. Turn off devices, sit quietly, and honestly tell Him what hurts or confuses you right now. Then spend a few minutes in silence, asking Him to show you one thing He is forming in you through this season. Choose one verse (Romans 8:18 or 8:28, or Psalm 46:10) and write it on a card or in your phone. Refer to it whenever the weight of this season feels especially heavy.

**Prayer:** “Father, my current season is not always easy to understand. Thank You that even my suffering is not wasted in Your hands. Help me to trust that You are working all things together for good, even when I cannot see how. Teach me to be still and know that You are God, especially when my heart is restless. Grow me through this season for Your glory. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

## Day 5

Matthew 16:1–3; James 4:17; Daniel 9:20; Acts 1:10–11

### Devotional

The religious leaders in Jesus' day could "read" the weather but not the times (Matthew 16:1–3). They knew the Scriptures, saw the miracles, heard the teaching, and still missed the Messiah standing right in front of them. Why? Their hearts were hardened by pride, self-righteousness, and distraction. They had information, but not perception. They were experts in prophecy, yet missed its fulfillment because they were more invested in maintaining control than in submitting to Christ.

That danger is not limited to first-century Pharisees. It is entirely possible to: Attend church regularly, know Bible facts, have strong opinions about the culture, and still miss what God is doing right now in your own heart, home, church, and community. James 4:17 presses this further: "So it is sin to know the good and yet not do it." Awareness without obedience is not neutral; it's rebellion. When you know God is prompting you—to repent, to reconcile, to speak truth, to serve—and you choose comfort or distraction instead, you are walking the path of the Pharisees.

Paying attention means: Being informed about what is happening in your home, church, and world, filtering it through Scripture, and then doing the next obedient thing God puts in front of you.

Every day holds "divine appointments"—moments to speak, to listen, to repent, to encourage, to stand, to love. The question is not whether God is at work, but whether you are awake enough to join Him.

### Application

**Reflection:** How many times do you avoid paying attention because it feels easier to stay distracted? What kinds of "good" things do you already know you ought to do, but keep postponing or ignoring?

**Action:** Today, intentionally pay attention in one key area: your home, your church, or your local community. Ask: "Lord, what are You showing me here?" Then note one specific "good" you already know you should do and commit to doing it within the next 48 hours.

**Prayer:** "Lord, forgive me for the times I have chosen distraction over discernment and information over obedience. Open my eyes to see what You are doing around me and in me. Help me not to miss the divine appointments You place in my path. Give me courage to do the good I already know I should do. Keep me awake and faithful until the day Jesus returns. Amen."