

## The Prophecy of Seventy Weeks

### Lesson Ten: Daniel Nine

#### Introduction

We have already seen God's plan for the Gentile nations, now Daniel nine reveals God's prophetic program for the Jews. This chapter forms the backbone of Messianic prophecy.

If we misunderstand this prophecy all the other biblical prophecies will not fit together.

#### THE PRAYER

- A. Why did God reveal this information to Daniel?
  - 1. It all started with the understanding that their captivity was nearing an end.
  - 2. The day of Israel's deliverance was drawing near.
- B. Daniel's study exercised his heart to prayer.
  - 1. He realized that when God is about to work, He begins by exercising His people -drawing people back.
  - 2. What a tragedy if we fail to prepare.
  - 3. This drawing of the Spirit must result in humility and repentance.
- C. Two-thirds of this chapter deals with Daniel's prayer for his people.
  - 1. This is more than a glimpse into the future – it is a call to repentance and prayer.
  - 2. There are three significant "ninth chapters" in the Old Testament. All of them containing a prayer of similar nature: Ezra 9, Nehemiah 9 and Daniel 9.
  - 3. Old Testament prophets did not sit in a passive state waiting for a revelation – they spent time in prayer and searching the prophets for the meaning and purpose of the prophecy.
  - 4. Daniel's prayer is rooted in his personal Bible study. (vs. 1-2)
- D. Daniel's main focus in prayer was on repentance and confession.
  - 1. The definition of "supplication".
  - 2. This is the only place in Daniel where the personal name of God (Yahweh) is used, and it is used seven times. Yahweh is God's covenant keeping name. This is what Daniel bases his prayer on.
- E. Daniel nine, verses five and six.

1. Emphasis is on “We and Us”. Daniel uses first person plural pronouns twenty times in this prayer.
  2. May the knowledge of this prophecy exercise us about individual holiness and faithfulness.
  3. Even though God had promised to end the captivity of His people, He had also instructed them to pray to that end: **“You will call upon Me and go and pray to Me and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity”.** (Jeremiah 29:12-14)
- D. Fortunately, Gabriel shows up!

## THE PROPHECY

- A. **“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city.”** (v.24)
  1. Something is coming to pass which cannot be changed.
  2. God has marked out a specific period of time.
  3. The word for “weeks” is literally “sevens”. The prophecy then is **“seventy groups of seven years.”** Seventy times seven years is 490 years. This prophecy is based on 360 days in a year.
  4. Part of the reason the Jews were in exile was that they willfully failed to observe the sabbatical years over a 490-year period.
- B. **This prophecy is directly related to the Jews and Jerusalem.**
  1. It is important to know that God counts time only as it relates to Jews in His holy city, Jerusalem.
  2. The seventy weeks are only running on while there is a remnant in Jerusalem owned by God as His people.
- C. **The seventy-week period has been divided into three segments.**
  1. The first division is seven weeks long = 49 years.
  2. The second division is sixty-two weeks = 483 years.
  3. The third division is one week = 7 years.

D. **There are six objectives to be completed before the seventy weeks are finished.** (v.24)

The first three are concerns with the removal of sin and the second three are concerned with restoration of righteousness.

1. To finish transgression.
2. To make an end of sin.
3. To make reconciliation for iniquity.
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness.
5. To seal up the vision.
6. To anoint the most holy.

### **THE FINAL SEVENTY WEEK PROPHECY**

A. The first division comprised seven units of seven or forty-nine years.

1. We are told exactly when the 490 years start.
2. Nehemiah 2:1-8 gives us the date of the decree as March 445 BC.
3. History tells us that the city was restored in 396 BC, which is 49 years after the decree.

B. Division number two was to last 434 years or 62 units of sevens.

1.  $434 + 49 = 483$  years.
2. This is from the rebuilding of the city until the crucifixion of Christ.
3. Just as there was an exact date to begin there is also an exact date for it to end.
4. Zechariah 9:9 foretold a day when Israel's king would ride into Jerusalem "on a donkey". Luke 19 records the fulfillment of his prophecy and the followers of Jesus hailed Him with the Messianic praise found in Psalm 118:26: "***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***"
5. The end of the first 69 weeks ended on April 6, AD 32, the same date Jesus entered Jerusalem and four days later was crucified.

C. The Gap or Church.

1. The church age was not understood by the prophets, but Daniel does say certain things would happen during this time.
2. Jesus is the first to mention the church and Paul tells us that the church was a mystery for ages. (Colossians 1:24-27)

3. Between the completion of the first 483 years and the last 7 years some other things are predicted.
4. Messiah would be cut off.
5. The people of the prince (antichrist) and destroy the city and until the end there would be wars and desolations. This was fulfilled in 70 AD.
6. Here is the record: Sixty-nine years have passed with the crucifixion of Christ. That rejection by the Jews put them out of favor with God and His timepiece stopped. He now is dealing with the Church.

D. The last week.

1. Toward the first of this week the antichrist ***“will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of this week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offerings.”*** (v.27)
2. The antichrist will establish his own religion and require the world to worship him.
3. This awful time cannot extend the 7 years specified by Gabriel.
4. This marks the end of events detailed in the 490 years of Daniel’s prophecy and lead to the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom that is referred to in verse twenty-four.