

The Clocks of Prophecy

Daniel 9:20-27

This is the most important passage in the book of Daniel that has to do with prophecy. Almighty God has a word for His people. Daniel has been in Babylon for almost 70 years. He went there as a 16-year-old boy as a captive and never left. He died in Babylon. One day, Daniel was having his devotions, and he was reading through the book of Jeremiah. And as he read through this book, he came to a section of the book that got his attention. Daniel is reading the book of Jeremiah. Daniel believes the time of the captivity of the children of Israel was almost complete. God had predicted there would be 70 years of captivity.

“In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom—in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the Lord given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.” Daniel 9:1-2

Daniel is reading Jeremiah 29. *“This is what the LORD says: ‘When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place.’”* Jeremiah 29:10

Daniel's eyes popped open when he read that. Almighty God has promised through Jeremiah that when the 70-year captivity is over, our people are going to be allowed to go back to Jerusalem and rebuild their temple, and once again exist as a nation in their homeland. It dawned on Daniel that what Jeremiah was saying in his prophecy was about to happen to his people, that the 70 years was almost completed.

Daniel reads this prophecy from Jeremiah, and got on his knees and began to pray. Have you ever done that? Read something that God says in the Bible and then go pray and say, *“So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.”* Daniel 9:3

The Bible says, *“This is the confidence we have in approaching God: If we pray anything in the will of God, he will do it.”* 1 John 5:14

Daniel was so stirred that he began to pray. He prayed one of the great prayers in all of the Bible. It is a great prayer of confession. Daniel was having his devotions that morning. Although he was a very busy man, Daniel continued his prayer all day long, even until the afternoon.

You know how to get all your prayers answered? Make sure they all come right out of the Bible. Just go and see what God's promised to do, then go tell God what He said He would do, and then tell God you want Him to do it.

Daniel says that he was praying until the time of the evening oblation in verse 21. The evening oblation is 3:00 in the afternoon. It is also a reference to the Jewish religious calendar and the ceremonies that the Jewish people conducted.

“Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with those who love him and keep his commandments, we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws. We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our ancestors, and to all the people of the land.” Daniel 9:3-5

It is a model prayer for any who are concerned over national decay. If you are concerned about the state of our country today, I suggest that you read Daniel's prayer through and see how beautifully and wonderfully he gathers up the whole situation, realistically appraises it, and lays it before God. This is a searching, penetrating prayer of confession, of praise, and of earnest petition to God. To read it is a moving and powerful experience. Daniel was interrupted as he prayed and never finished. His report of that interruption is in Verses 20-23:

“While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God; 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. He came and he said to

me, 'O Daniel, I have now come out to give you wisdom and understanding. At the beginning of your supplications a word went forth, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the word and understand the vision.'" Daniel 9:20-23

While Daniel is praying, the Lord sends the angel Gabriel to tell Daniel that God is going to reveal a prophecy about the nation of Israel to him. This is the same angel that appeared to Mary and Joseph, as recorded in the opening chapters of the New Testament. The prophecy gives him a clear look into the future and is an answer to the prayer at the beginning of the chapter.

Daniel said, "I read what Jeremiah said. I believe it. I prayed it. We confess our sin. Now, Lord, do what You said You were going to do."

As he was finishing his prayer, expecting an answer, he was about to get the biggest surprise of his life. For, as he finished his prayer, God answered, and He answered him in a way he could not possibly have expected. Daniel was asking God about the 490 years that was in the past. "I want you to forgive us for what we did." God said, "Daniel, what I'd like to do is show you what I'm going to do for the 490 years in the future." God laid out a plan for the people of Israel that stretched all the way through to the end of the kingdom age. It's the most amazing span of prophetic truth in the Bible. Daniel prays, and God says, "I'm going to give you a vision for the future."

In this revelation, we have one of the great prophetic passages in all of the Bible. It has been referred to as the backbone of prophecy. It is the template that is used to help us understand what the Bible has to say about Bible prophecy. It helps us understand God's prophetic plan for His own people, the children of Israel, and it helps us understand how we fit into the plan of God.

1. The Message of the Prophecy

"Seventy 'weeks' 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." Daniel 9:24

The word "weeks" in the Hebrew language is a special word meaning "seven." There is no debate that when Daniel makes reference to 70 weeks, 70 sevens. When you see the words "weeks or sevens," it means "seventy sevens of years," which is seventy weeks of years.

When you take 70 and multiply it by seven, you have a period of 490 years, and that is the amount of time that's going to transpire in this particular prophecy. God says, "Daniel, I have a plan for you that's going to take 70-sevens of years to unfold. Daniel, my plan for you and your people goes out 490 years." God is going to explain that what's going to happen in these 70-sevens (490 years) could not possibly happen in one week. The building of the temple, the restoration of the temple, all of that took a long period of time. 483 of those years are already passed. There's still 7 years that have yet to be fulfilled.

The word "*decreed*" means "it is sure and certain." It's just as sure as it can be. These have to do with the end of their rebellion against God at the end of time.

Unknown to many people, the Biblical year is not the same as our year today. For instance, in Biblical times, the month in the Old Testament was not like it is today. The 12 months were always 30 days. So when you do the math of the Old Testament, you have to always use the Biblical year, 360 days. In verse 24, "*Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city.*"

God gave Daniel six things that were going to happen, and they're all listed in this one verse.

2. The Meaning of the Seventy Weeks

“Seventy weeks (of years) are decreed concerning 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.” Daniel 9:24

He says this particular prophecy has to do with “*your people*,” that is Daniel’s people, and “*the holy city*.” This lets us know that the prophecy has to do with the nation of Israel. When he talks about the holy city, he is talking about the city of Jerusalem.

God gives six different purposes for this period of 490 years.

The first three purposes have to do with God’s redemptive purposes concerning sin.

The final three purposes have to do with God’s restoration plans for this earth.

- *“To Finish The Transgression.” Daniel 9:24*

There's going to be a time when there will be no more transgression, or sin. It will no longer grow and flourish. Has that ever happened? Is it true now? Absolutely not. This is not a time of less transgression. It's a time of growing transgression. We seem to be creative in transgression. But there is coming a time for God’s people in the future where transgression will no longer be in control.

That is always “the” transgression. The great transgression is the rejection of Jesus as the Savior, the Messiah, the Lord. If you reject the Lord Jesus Christ, there is no other atonement for sin. There is no other provision for your sin. The transgression is to refuse to accept what Jesus did on the cross for you.

- *“To Make An End Of Sins” Daniel 9:24*

There is coming a time when sin will no longer be a part of the experience of people on this earth. Sin will be eliminated in principle and in practice. That will happen when Jesus sets up His kingdom on earth. There is coming a day when King Jesus will rule, transgression will be finished, and sin will no longer be a part of the culture. That's the Kingdom Age. During this period of time, God is going to fully settle the sin question. Satan and sin will exit the human story.

- *“To Make Reconciliation For Iniquity” Daniel 9:24*

Reconciliation was made for iniquity at the cross, but the Jewish people didn't accept that. Their reconciliation will not happen until that future day when they will believe that Jesus is the Messiah at His Second Coming, and “*every eye will see him, and those who wounded him will accept him.*” Revelation 1:7

The reconciliation was paid for at the cross, but it won’t be realized until that future day. When Jesus came to the river of Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist, the Bible says that John pointed to Jesus and said, “*Behold the Lamb of God which takes away the sin of the world.*” John 1:29 When Jesus died on the cross, He made reconciliation for iniquity. Christ died for the sins of the whole world. In 1 Timothy 4:10, we can see the scope of the death of the Lord Jesus on Calvary. It says in the latter part of the verse, “*Who is the Savior of all men, especially of those that believe.*” The phrase “*of those who believe*” means you must receive personally what Jesus did on the cross for your sins. Those are the redemptive purposes.

Christ died for your sins. It doesn't matter who you are or what you've done. It doesn't matter how far gone you think you are or how hopeless you may be. He is your Savior.

In Daniel 9:24 are the last three purposes. These have to do with the plans of God for the earth. They are matters of righteousness.

- *“To Bring In Everlasting Righteousness” Daniel 9:24*

Righteousness is often put down by sin because the enemy has been given a time. There is coming a time when righteousness will reign. His literal kingdom will be brought to earth. The king of kings will place his kingdom on this earth. Daniel is looking beyond the cross and into the future. Daniel is looking into the time of the millennium when there will be righteousness on this earth. During that thousand year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on this earth, righteousness will reign everywhere.

Sometimes we get bothered by what is going on in our world. We get upset about what's going on in government, and we get disturbed at the injustices in this world. One of these days, Jesus is going to come back, and He's going to rule and reign on the earth. When He does, righteousness will fill the earth, and He is going to bring everlasting righteousness.

- *“To Seal Up The Vision And Prophecy”* Daniel 9:24

Every single prophecy that's ever been made will be fulfilled. There will be no prophecy left unfulfilled. During this 490-year period of time, every covenant promise will be completed. Much of the prophecy in the Bible has to do particularly with God's chosen people, Israel. Daniel says that during this period of the 70 weeks, God will seal up the vision and prophecy.

- *“To Anoint The Most Holy”* Daniel 9:24

When you first read that, you think, "That must refer to Jesus". But it does not. In fact, in the New Testament, the term "to anoint the Most Holy," never refers to a person. It always refers to a place. That is a reference to the most holy place, the millennial temple. In Ezekiel, chapters 41-46, we are told that during the millennium, there is going to be a temple built. There's coming a time when His people Israel are going to be regathered into their own land. Sin will be mitigated. Righteousness will rule. The holy temple will be re-established, and they'll be able to worship in their temple.

In the millennial temple, the Jews will come back as once they did. They will offer sacrifices in testimony to the fact that God has completed everything on their behalf. And they will worship as a Jewish nation in their own land in Jerusalem. This future that God has prepared for His people is going to happen at the end of the 490 years, in the last week of the 70 weeks. In the first 69 weeks of the prophecy, we can go back and see what God said would happen, and we can check it against history. We can determine whether God was telling the truth or whether He was able to do what He said he would do. The Bible says that holy place is going to be anointed, and Jesus Christ the Savior, the Messiah, is going to dwell in that holy place.

3. The Movements Of The Future

“Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two ‘sevens,’ the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing.”
Daniel 9:25-26

That equals the rest of the 483 years. God is telling Daniel, “Here's a starting point I want you to check out. From the moment that the command was given in the Old Testament to go and build again the temple and the walls, from that moment,” and we know when that was. The Bible tells us when that was. The decree to restore and build Jerusalem would begin the 70 weeks, and that decree is found in Nehemiah 2:1, *“In the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the king.”* That's an exact date. That date fixed by Nehemiah happens to be one of the best known dates in ancient history. Even the Encyclopedia Britannica sets the date of Artaxerxes accession as 465 BC, and his 20th year would have been 445 BC.

So the command to go and build the temple again was given in 445 BC. It was the month of Nisan. And if we translate that into our calendar, we arrive at March 14, 445 BC as the date of the command to restore and build Jerusalem. We now have when the prophecy's going to end, the first 69 weeks.

There will be periods of time in future history.

7 weeks of years = 49 yrs.

62 weeks of years = 434 yrs.

The total is 483 years. Multiply times 360 days

1 week of years = 7 years

These 490 years are going to be divided into distinct, separate periods of time. Each one of these periods will have to do with prophecies related to the nation of Israel. I want to divide these periods up.

- The Beginning Of The Countdown. - A Period Of Trouble

“And understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’ It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.” Daniel 9:25

There is going to be a period of trouble. God predicted to Daniel that the children of Israel would be released from their captivity, and they would be allowed to go back to the city of Jerusalem and rebuild their city and the city wall again. We know when that took place. We know that it was a 49-year period of time when that reconstruction project was done in the land of Israel. We know that it took place in 445 B.C. That's a matter of history.

We know that the beginning of that was the decree of Artaxerxes I, who was the king of Persia. When that decree was given, a clock began to tick. It was the clock of Israel. It was God's prophetic plan for the nation of Israel from the time of Daniel all the way to the end time. The first period of 49 years would be a time when the children of Israel would return home and rebuild their city and its wall.

We have the account of that in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah. It was a period of trouble. Nehemiah and the people who worked with him encountered all kinds of opposition. People did everything they could to disturb and hinder and block the work, but God was at work. When God says it's going to be a certain way, nobody can stop it. When God declares and decrees that something is going to come to pass, all the devils of hell can't stop the plan of God. That is the first seven weeks or 49 years.

In Daniel 9:26, there is a second period of time. This is God's prophetic clock for Israel.

Israel's prophetic clock began to tick when the commandment to rebuild Jerusalem was given. (2 Chronicles 36 / Ezra 1) *“The first year of Cyrus, King of Persia.”* (his was the first decree given of 3, ending with Artaxerxes in 445 B.C., March 21st on our calendar.)

- The Coming Of The Christ. - A Period Of Tragedy.

“until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven ‘sevens’ and sixty-two ‘sevens’.” Daniel 9:25

A 62-week period (434 years) will conclude. The word *“messiah prince”* are one word, *“Masiyah.”* Messiah the Prince will be the end of the 69 years of prophecy. *“Messiah the Prince”* is a Hebrew term that means *“The anointed one, the ruler.”* The term is associated with kingly authority, and it is used to describe the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ as a Prince and a Ruler.

When did Jesus Christ appear in His New Testament existence on this earth as a Prince and a Ruler? Only one time, when He rode into the city of Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to present Himself as the King, and was rejected by the Jewish people. *“He came unto his own and his own received him not.” John 1:11*

We've had 49 years. Now we've got 62 weeks, 434 years. When you put them all together, you have 483 years from the time the children of Israel went back to their land and rebuilt Jerusalem. This was 69 prophetic weeks that would

pass.

In order to find out when this end is going to happen, we have to do a little math. First of all, we have to reduce these years to days. Since we have 69 weeks of 7 years each, and each year has 360 days, the equation looks like this: 69 weeks of 7 years equals 483 years. The math is correct. Each year has 360 days. So you multiply 483 years by 360 days, and you come out with the number of days between the command to build Jerusalem and the Messiah the Prince. And that is 173,880 days. Beginning with March 14, 445 BC, add 173,880 days, and it brings you to April the 6, 32 AD. This is the exact day our Lord rode into Jerusalem to present himself as the Prince. It wasn't approximate. It was to the very day as the prophet Daniel was told.

There was a man named Sir Robert Anderson who wrote a book a number of years ago entitled The Coming Prince. Sir Robert Anderson took all of these historical dates and prophecies of the book of Daniel and all of the decrees that were given to send the people back at particular times. He computed and calculated all that time. From 445 B.C. when the Jews were sent back, until the time that Jesus Christ was carried out to the cross of Calvary, the very day that Jesus Christ died on the cross, was exactly 483 years to the day. It all happened exactly like God said in the Bible. Marvelous prophesy of God! 173,880 days because the days were counted by the Jewish lunar calendar that had 360 days, not like our English calendars that were done by the Romans with 365 days a year. From the time of the decree.

In Luke 19 we know what happens. It was prophesied in Zechariah 9:9, 500 years before Jesus would be born.

“Lo, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on an donkey, on a colt the foal of a donkey.” Zechariah 9:9

On that day, they had the branches laid in His pathway. He was riding on a donkey, and He came into the city of Jerusalem to present Himself as God's Prince.

“After Jesus had said this, he went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you untying it?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it.’ Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, ‘Why are you untying the colt?’ They replied, ‘The Lord needs it.’ They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen: ‘Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!’ Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, ‘Teacher, rebuke your disciples!’ ‘I tell you,’ he replied, ‘If they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.’” Luke 19:28-40

We serve a God who has always been on time, and He's not going to be late for you, either! He was publicly proclaiming himself as the Christ. This particular equation that I've given you has been in existence for over 100 years. Every scholar has tried to rip it apart, and they all come back with, “You know, that's right. That's the way it is. That's what happened.” And so we see God has a plan for His people.

God loves the people of Israel. He doesn't love them any more than He loves you and me, but He ordained that nation to be a special nation to Himself. Out of the nation of Israel came our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, born in the genealogy in the book of Matthew. From the Jewish people came almost 80% of everything that's written in this book, the Bible.

God has sent His Messiah to this world for us. Jesus said, *“I am come that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly.”* John 10:10

He said, *“I have not come to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give my life a ransom for many.”* Mark 10:45

The Messiah the Prince is here. He has come to be our Savior. If you do not know this Messiah, invite Him to be Your Savior, and confess your sin and ask for forgiveness. And he loves you more than you can ever know.

Say, "Lord Jesus, I want you to be my Messiah, my savior. Forgive me of my sin. I repent and surrender my life to you. I make you the Lord of my life and now I follow you.

- The Crucifixion On The Cross – A Time Of Transformation

"the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing." Daniel 9:26

This is a direct prediction of the death of Jesus on the cross. Jesus was not dying for Himself. When He died on the cross, it was not for Himself. If Jesus didn't die for Himself, whom did He die for? For you and me. Jesus died on that old cross for you and me!

"He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken." Isaiah 53:8

There is not a more precise timetable predicted in all the Bible, 483 years to the exact month it came to pass. That brings us to April of 32 AD. It was fulfilled on the day Jesus entered into Jerusalem. Now the clock of Israel stops. When Israel rejected the Messiah, God's prophetic clock for Israel stopped.

- The Collapse Of The City – A Period Of Transition

"The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary." Daniel 9:26

It says that the people of the prince that shall come, that is the Romans, will destroy the city and the sanctuary. Jesus predicted that would happen. He predicted that the city of Jerusalem would be destroyed and that the city of Jerusalem would be taken by foreign power. We know what happened. In A.D. 70, Titus, the Roman general and his Roman army invaded the city of Jerusalem and slaughtered Jews. He destroyed the city and gave orders that the temple was not to be destroyed. A soldier of Titus threw a torch, and when he did all of the tapestry and cloth and magnificent materials in the temple caught on fire. The temple began to burn. As it began to burn, all the magnificent gold melted and went down into the stones of the Temple. The greedy Roman soldiers pulled up the stones in order to recapture the gold.

"Do you see all these things?" he asked. "Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." Matthew 24:2

There was not a stone left upon another in that particular time.

"The prince that shall come" = the antichrist

"The people of the prince" = the Romans

In Luke 19, Jesus predicted this in the closing days and hours of the life of the Lord. He comes to the city, and we see one of the three times in the Bible that Jesus weeps. *"And when he was come near, he beheld the city (Jerusalem), and wept over it, saying, 'Would that even today you would know the things that make for peace.' The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side. They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."* Luke 19:41

They did not know that He was the one who could bring them peace. They could have received their Messiah. They could have had peace. Jesus predicted exactly what would take place. God's clock of Israel stopped. It's as if God put them on hold on the phone and used another line to speak during this period of time. He has not dropped them. He has not hung up on them. Right now He is talking to us and through us. He has merely put them on hold.

- The Calling Of The Church – A Period Of Triumph

“The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.” Daniel 9:26

Something happens after the first two sections, but is not in the last section. This is an indeterminate period of time. God calls a time-out, and the prophetic clock stops ticking. 69 weeks of years have gone by, there's only 1 more week [7 years to go].

We don't know when, but someday soon God will look down from glory and see a sinner repenting and will turn to His Son and tell Him, “Go and get Your bride”...and tell Gabriel, “Blow your trumpet!”

Between verses 26 and 27, another clock begins to tick. Something takes place between the verses. Daniel didn't see it. None of the Old Testament prophets ever saw it. Another clock began to move. Another period of God's work called the Age of the Church began to take place. It is called the Age of Grace. After the Jewish people rejected their Messiah, the door of opportunity was opened up for the Gentiles. The opportunity was for them to receive Christ as their Savior. The Old Testament prophets never saw it.

“And when they were come, and had gathered the church together, they rehearsed all that God had done with them, and how he had opened the door of faith unto the Gentiles.” Acts 14:27

When the Jews rejected and the clock stopped, God turned to the Gentiles, and the clock of the church began to tick. In Acts 15, Luke records where, at the gathering in Jerusalem, the establishment of the body of Christ the church was affirmed by quoting a 500-year-old prophecy from Amos 9:11-12.

“The whole assembly became silent as they listened to Barnabas and Paul telling about the signs and wonders God had done among the Gentiles through them. When they finished, James spoke up. ‘Brothers,’ he said, ‘listen to me. Simon has described to us how God first intervened to choose a people for his name from the Gentiles. The words of the prophets are in agreement with this, as it is written: ‘After this I will return and rebuild David’s fallen tent. Its ruins I will rebuild, and I will restore it, that the rest of mankind may seek the Lord, even all the Gentiles who bear my name, says the Lord, who does these things—things known from long ago.’” Acts 15:12-18

All these centuries since that time, the clock of grace has been ticking. The clock of the church has been ticking. The opportunity for people to be saved is here. You and I have had the opportunity to be saved because of the plan of God for the church.

In Ephesians 3, it talks about the fact that Daniel and the Old Testament prophets didn't see the church. Ephesians 3:5 says, *“Which in other ages (the Old Testament) was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.”*

What is the mystery that was not revealed? What is it that Daniel and the Old Testament prophets didn't see? We find out in verse 6 *“That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, and of the same body (that's the church), and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.”* In verse 9, it says, *“And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hidden in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ.”* Ephesians 3:5-9

This clock ticking is the mystery and the age of grace. Israel has gone through 483 years of its prophecy. Israel has gone through 69 weeks of the prophecy of Daniel. You may ask, “When is this clock of the church going to stop ticking?” One of these days, the Lord Jesus Christ is going to descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of the archangel and the trumpet of God. Dead believers are going to be raised, and living believers are going to be transformed and changed and raptured, caught up to meet the Lord in the air. The church is going to be raptured out of this world, and when they do, the clock of the church and the clock of the opportunity of grace will be all over. It will be too late for anybody to be saved who rejected the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is the rapture of the church, and the end of the church age. Our redemption will be complete.

- The Confirmation Of The Covenant – A Time Of Tribulation

Then the clock of Israel is going to begin to tick again.

“He will confirm a covenant with many for one ‘seven.’ In the middle of the ‘seven’ he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.” Daniel 9:27

The final period of these 70 weeks of Daniel is a seven-year period called the tribulation.

Sixty-nine weeks have already taken place. That's history. One more week to come. That's prophecy. It's coming in the future. God's clock begins to tick, and the final seven years will begin when the antichrist will make a covenant with the Jewish people. It will be a covenant of peace.

Every day of our life, we see the problem of the Middle East. We deal with the conflict of the Arabs and the Jews. There seems to be no solution and no end for it. World leaders don't have a clue that the Bible predicts that the time will come when the antichrist will solve the Middle Eastern problem.

The antichrist will sign a seven-year peace treaty with the Jewish people. He will allow them to rebuild their temple. The Jewish people will accept this because their leaders will be blind to their own scriptures. They want peace so bad they will follow anyone.

“He will confirm the covenant with many for one week.” Daniel 9:27

It says in the middle of the seven years, three and a half years—that helps us understand the book of the Revelation.

Revelation 11:2 talks about 42 months. That's three and a half years. You also read in Revelation 12:6 that he talks about 1,260 days. That's three and a half years. You will also find in Revelation 12:14 talks about a time, a times, and a half of time. That's three and a half years.

For three and half years, there will be peace, but in the middle of that time, he will cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease. He will send out the word that there will be no more sacrifices in the Temple.

“At the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation.” Daniel 9:27

In Matthew 24:15, we see what the Bible predicts is going to happen. *“When ye, therefore, shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place.”* Matthew 24:15

In 2 Thessalonians 2, it gets very specific. He talks about the coming of the antichrist. He is called the man of sin, the son of perdition. In verse 4, it tells us what he will do. *“Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshiped, so that he, as God, sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”* 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

In Revelation 13:14, we have the final scripture that connects the dots. We are told about the beast that rises out of the sea. That's a picture of the antichrist. We are told that he derives his power from the devil himself.

“And deceives them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast, saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast.” Revelation 13:14

“And he has power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.” Revelation 13:15

As we have learned from previous prophecies, he will set up an image of himself in the temple, the Roman ruler, to be worshipped as God. This will go on “*until the end that is decreed is poured out on him.*” We know what that end is. Both John, in Revelation, and Paul, in Second Thessalonians, have told us his end will be at the appearance of Jesus Christ. Zechariah says, “*On that day his feet shall stand on the Mount of Olives.*” Zechariah 14:4 This is the very Mount from which He left the earth. He will wreak vengeance upon the nations assembled against Jerusalem and especially against this blasphemous individual who has come into control of the world.

The last half of the tribulation will be the worst of times on earth! At the end of those 7 years, the 70 weeks are up, and God’s kingdom will come to earth—the prophetic clock can hang in heaven’s museum, for time will be no more! Jesus Christ will have fulfilled everything the Bible said He would do. Everything God said is going to happen in that 70 weeks of Daniel is going to be fulfilled in the future. If God keeps His word like that, He’ll keep His word to you. He’ll meet the needs of your life. He’ll help you through the problems you’re going through right now. If you need a personal Savior, Jesus Christ will forgive you of your sins and come into your life, and I have the authority of the Word of God to tell you that that is true. If you are in the midst of struggles beyond your power to understand, God has the power and has promised His presence to you in the midst of these moments.

God does not forget His promises or His people. There were times when they wondered if God had forgotten them. God was accomplishing His plan and purpose during the time of bondage. The Old Testament writings were completed and compiled during the time on captivity. It was not wasted time. We sometimes wonder, “What is going on in my life?” It was affirmed to Daniel how much he was loved by God. On five different occasions, God says to Daniel, “You are greatly loved.”

What will happen? Is it all going to be fulfilled in our day? We can never say, “Yes, this is the final fulfillment. These events are moving us to the end.” We need to take seriously the days in which we live. We need to take seriously the times in which we live and change our lives to live in tune with God. We need to understand that God’s program is going to run its course exactly as predicted.

Daniel was a man of prayer. “*I prayed to the Lord my God.*” In chapter 10, we see Daniel fasting and praying for 3 whole weeks. During that time, he ate no choice food, no meat, and drank no wine till he heard from God. God loves a man who is determined, who sets his face toward God and prays.

Daniel Confessed His Sins and the People’s Sins.

God loves a man who confesses sin. Daniel said, “*We have sinned.*” Daniel 9:5 You can study this book in vain to find out whether Daniel sinned, but he said he was a sinner, and I believe it. He was willing to identify himself with his sinful people. You may look at someone’s life and think he is sinless, but no one is sinless.

When you let God’s searchlight of His Word shine into your mind and heart, and you live in His presence in this Book, He searches your soul day after day. You will see the sinfulness of your own heart. You will not feel self-righteous. You will not be slow to forgive others. Daniel was one of the holiest men who ever walked on this earth, and yet he confessed sin to God. We are all sinners and need forgiveness. And if God can forgive me, I can forgive anyone else.

No wonder God loved this man Daniel. He was honest with God. God knows our thoughts and imaginations. When I’m in my prayer room on my face before God, I am what I really am.