

Daniel 9 – Vision #4 – Seventy Years & The Desolations of Jerusalem

By Holly Effiom

VV1-2

Who is king at the time that this vision takes place?

How long had he been reigning?

What happened to Daniel that first year?

What scripture was Daniel referring to in Jeremiah? Jer 25:11-13; 29:10

What is to be accomplished in this 70 years?

According to 2 Chr 36:20-21, what was to be accomplished in the 70 years?

What “sabbaths” is 2 Chr 36:20-21 referring to? Lev 25:4-13

LESSON: The sabbath rest of the land is different from the sabbath for man, which is 7 days. The sabbath for the land is 7 years, the 50th year being the jubilee. There are several points to consider when looking at this section of Daniel:

1. God is imparting information on “timing”. Remember He was doing the same when giving a description of the “little horn” or “king of fierce countenance” in Daniel 8. Something to consider is how the 2,300 days are related to the 70 years of desolations of Jerusalem.
2. God is imparting information on what will be accomplished. Daniel calls it the “desolations of Jerusalem”; 2 Chr 36:20-21 describes it as the land being “given her sabbath rests”. These two things are not mutually exclusive. But what is a sabbath rest for the land? 7 years. Therefore, that would be 7 times 70 years – 490 years.

God wants you to know and understand the timing; otherwise, He would not have included it in His scriptures. And hence, He is providing you markers in that timing by which to be sure of what you are seeing. Why is this important?

VV3-6

What is Daniel’s first response to this new understanding? Was it to go out and write a book about his experience and join the talk show circuit, to make money off his knowledge?

To which God did Daniel bow?

Whose sin does Daniel acknowledge?

We have studied Daniel’s life in chapters 1-6 – we have an understanding of his character: in what way has Daniel sinned?

Take a look at Solomon’s sermon or prayer at the completion of the Temple in Jerusalem. 1 Ki 8:38-43, 46-53; 9:2-3

Was Solomon’s prayer accepted?

VV7-14

Who is the owner of righteousness?

Who owns confusion of face? What is this?

What causes confusion of face, according to Daniel’s prayer?

Who is the owner of mercy and forgiveness? So, when you are seeking mercy and forgiveness, do you go to someone besides the owner of mercy and forgiveness?

In what way did Israel transgress the law? V11 Do we do the same thing sometimes?

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What curse, written in the Law of Moses, is poured out upon Israel? Dt 28:47-68

VV15-19

After Daniel acknowledges the facts of the matter, what does he ask of God?

Was Daniel's petition to God based upon Israel's righteousness? Was Israel righteous?

What was Daniel's petition based upon, if not righteousness?

LESSON: Daniel's prayer wasn't just on his own behalf, but on behalf of all Israel. In fact, from our studies of Daniel, God had deemed him righteous before Him. Daniel's first inclination upon understanding Jeremiah's prophecy was to bow to God and pray for mercy upon His sanctuary, despite the sins of the nation.

God has warned Israel of this curse way back in the law of Moses; and then He sent prophets to warn them when Israel was on the wrong path. These prophets were ignored, and often suffered for their message. So, Israel's predicament was their own fault; and yet God raised up one to intercede on Israel's behalf; Daniel fulfilled a part of Solomon's prayer at the completion of the temple, in being one of the scattered and yet making his prayer and supplication toward Jerusalem, on behalf of Israel. What a God; what a prayer!

What about that portion of Solomon's prayer that applied to the stranger? Could that be referring to Christians?

VV20-23

What happened in response to Daniel's request? Had Daniel even finished making his request?

Who is Gabriel? Which of the previous visions did Gabriel interpret for Daniel?

What did Gabriel tell Daniel this time?

- When was he dispatched to help Daniel?
- Why was he sent to help Daniel?
- Why did God want Daniel to understand the matter?

What does this tell you about God? What does it say about how He works with people?

LESSON: God does not push Himself on anyone. He has shown in several instances, besides this one, how He works with man – not forcing or over-running his will.

Look at Ex 3:1-4. God appears to Moses in a burning bush that isn't consumed. As soon as Moses proposed in his heart to go figure this bush out – as soon as he set his feet in the direction of God, God was there to meet him – God spoke to him from out of the burning bush!

Look at Isa 6:5-7. God appears in all His glory to Isaiah. Isaiah, upon seeing His image, immediately realizes his own inadequacy. As soon as Isaiah acknowledged his corruption, God immediately dispatched the remedy.

And, in this example of Daniel – his mind understanding and his heart in alignment with God's will – as soon as he *started* his prayer, God dispatched an angel to respond. He wasn't even finished praying before the angel arrived to respond!

How often is God waiting on *us* to get in alignment with Him before He will bless and move powerfully in our lives or even just the situation?

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VV24

Are “weeks” synonymous with “years” in this section of scripture? What about Jer 25:11 and 2 Chr 36:21?

What does the word “determined” connote here?

Who are the “thy people” mentioned in the scripture?

Where is “thy holy city”?

What are the 6 things to be accomplished in this determination?

- Finish the transgression – how is this different from making an end of sins?
- Make an end of sins
- Make reconciliation for iniquity – what is being reconciled?
- To bring in everlasting righteousness – how is everlasting righteousness related to the reconciliation for iniquity?
- To seal up the vision and prophecy – what does it mean to “seal up”?
- To anoint the most Holy – what does this mean?

VV25-26

What will start the clock ticking on the 70 weeks, according to Gabriel’s word? Isa 44:28

What events will take place during the 69 weeks? Are these weeks in man’s time or the land’s time? How do you know?

What will occur at the end of the 62 weeks? When do we believe this to have happened?

How long is the time from when Cyrus made the proclamation to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem to Jesus’s crucifixion?

LESSON: The time from the fall of the last king of Israel to the proclamation of Cyrus the Persian, in his first year of reign, is 70 years. It was in his first year of reign that he proclaimed freedom for the children of Israel to return to Jerusalem, and he ordered that the city and the temple in Jerusalem be rebuilt, as prophesied by Isaiah in Isa 44:28, and described in Ez 1:1-3. The events that are prophesied in V25 don’t *commence* until the command from Cyrus to rebuild Jerusalem and the temple there.

So, what we do know is that the 70 weeks do not include the children of Israel’s 70 years in Babylon.

There are different dates given in the Bible for when Cyrus’s first year of reign occurred. One notation puts Dan 10:1, the third year of Cyrus’ reign at 536 BC. That would make his first year 539 BC. Ez 1:1 notes Cyrus’s reign to be from 541-515 BC....

Because of the varying dates of when events occurred, it is important to put aside our understanding or lack of understanding, to analyze what we *do* know about those 70 weeks.

What we do know is that in 69 weeks the temple will have been rebuilt and the Messiah crucified. We believe Jesus is that Messiah, and we know that he was crucified in 33-34 AD.

VV26-27

What does it mean that “shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself”?

What happens after Messiah is cut off?

Who is this “prince that shall come”?

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Who are the people of this “prince that shall come”?

What will they do the city and sanctuary?

What will be taking place until the end? Where else in Daniel is the “end” discussed? Dan 8:17, 19.

What about that 70th week? How will we know that it has arrived? Matt 24:15-22; Luke 21:20-24;
Rev 11:2

Ultimately, what will this prince that shall come do?

What will happen to the prince that shall come and to his people?

LESSON: Daniel 9, just like chapter 8, is related to the timing of events. If you cannot understand or figure out the timing, look at the markers! Three markers are given as signs of where we are on the timeline to the end:

1. From the point that the commandment went forth for Jerusalem, the city and temple, to be rebuilt;
2. To the Messiah, the Prince, who will be cut off, but not for himself;
3. The prince that is to come will confirm a covenant for 1 week with many, and then three-and-a-half years into the covenant, he will break the covenant and will cause all sacrifice and oblation to cease.

These 3 markers comprise the 70 weeks determined upon Daniel’s people.

If we compare the markers to what is to be accomplished, we get an idea for what we are looking:

3 markers from Daniel 9	6 things to be accomplished in the 70 weeks
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. From the point that the commandment went forth for Jerusalem, the city and temple, to be rebuilt;2. To the Messiah, the Prince, who will be cut off, but not for himself;3. The prince that is to come will confirm a covenant for 1 week with many, and then three-and-a-half years into the covenant, he will break the covenant and will cause all sacrifice and oblation to cease.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finish the transgression.• Make an end of sins.• Make reconciliation for iniquity.• To bring in everlasting righteousness.• To seal up the vision and prophecy.• To anoint the most Holy.

What has been completed and what is yet to be completed in each column?