

Daniel 9:20-27 – Seventy Weeks Prophecy.

- I. (20-23): Daniel's prayer is attended to by an angelic visit.

Matthew 6:7-8 - *And when you pray, do not use vain repetitions as the heathen do. For they think that they will be heard for their many words. "Therefore do not be like them. For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*

In his prayer he sought God's will and now God gives him understanding;

Psalm 119:73 - *Your hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn Your commandments.*

Psalm 119:104 - *Through Your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.*

- II. (24-27) - The prophecy of the Seventy Weeks.
 - i. *Seventy weeks* are determined for the Jews and Jerusalem.

Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city; these are **seventy** sets of seven years. The seventy weeks are related to Daniel's **people** (the Jews) and his **holy city** (Jerusalem).

What will be accomplished in the seventy weeks?

-To finish the transgression, to make an end of sins: man's rebellion against God will come to an end.

-To make reconciliation for iniquity: Man's **iniquity** must be reconciled to God's justice and holiness. This work was clearly accomplished at the cross.

-To bring in everlasting righteousness:

-To seal up vision and prophecy: This speaks of both the ending and fulfillment of all prophecy.

-To anoint the most holy: The **most holy** place of the temple - that will be anointed and blessed.

- ii. (25) The course and dividing of the seventy weeks.

Here Gabriel reveals to Daniel the *starting point* for the seventy-weeks prophecy.

- Cyrus made a decree giving Ezra and the Babylonian captives the right to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple in 538 B.C. (Ezra in 1:1-4 and 5:13-17)
- Darius made a decree giving Ezra the right to rebuild the temple in 517 B.C. (Ezra 6:6-12)
- Artaxerxes made a decree giving Ezra permission, safe passage, and supplies to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple in 458 B.C. (Ezra 7:11-26)
- Artaxerxes made a decree giving Nehemiah permission, safe passage and supplies to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the walls in 445 B.C. (Nehemiah 2:1-8)

Only the last of these four decrees was a **command to restore and build Jerusalem**. The first three each focused on the *temple*, not on **the street** or on **the wall**.

69 (weeks) units of seven years, 483 years - would pass from the time of the command recorded in Nehemiah 2:1-8 until the appearance of **Messiah the Prince**.

- Anderson, using a 360-day year (which Israel used in Daniel's day), calculates 173,880 days from the decree to the Triumphal Entry, fulfilling the prophecy *to the day*. "It is customary for the Jews to have twelve months of 360 days each and then to insert a thirteenth month occasionally when necessary to correct the calendar." (Walvoord, John).

Taking Anderson's calculations as reliable, we see a *remarkable* fulfillment of prophecy; **The Triumphant Entry**.

Luke 19:42 - *If you had known, even you, especially IN THIS YOUR DAY, the things that make for your peace!*

Psalms 118:24 - *THIS IS THE DAY which the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times: This indicates that the rebuilding of the streets and wall of Jerusalem would happen in the first **seven weeks** mentioned.

Then would follow another 62 weeks of years until the coming of **Messiah the Prince**.

The seventy weeks are divided into three parts:

- Seven weeks - 49 years, until the city and its walls are rebuilt.
- 69 weeks (7 plus 62), 483 years from the decree, until Messiah the Prince appears
- A final 70th week to complete the prophecy.

iii. (26) What happens after the first sixty-nine weeks.

- **After the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off:** Crucifixion.
- **Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary:** The Roman (anti-christ army) destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D.

iv. (9:27) The events of the seventieth week.

- **He shall confirm a covenant:** The coming prince/anti-christ will make a **covenant** with Israel for the final unit of seven years, completing the seventy weeks prophesied for the Jewish people and Jerusalem.
- **In the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering:** The coming prince will break the covenant with Israel in the **middle** of the seven years, the final "week."
- **On the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate:** The ending of sacrifice will come with **abominations**, followed by tremendous *desolation*.

The events promised in the first 69 weeks are fulfilled, indicated that there is a lengthy "pause" in the 70 Weeks, between the 69th week and the 70th week. The 70th week will begin when the coming prince shall confirm a covenant with the Jewish people.

Until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate: This breaking of the covenant and abomination of desolation has a promised **end**. Before the 70th week is completed, each of the things described in Daniel 9:24 will be accomplished and everlasting righteousness will reign.