

# Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> Week

## Understanding Tribulation Judgments

### Daniel 9

#### I. The Vision of the Sevens (verses 13-27).

1. First year of Darius the Mede-539 B.C.
2. Daniel realizes that the 70 year captivity predicted by Jeremiah (Jeremiah 25:11) was almost over (605 B.C.-539 B.C.=66 years).
3. Prayer of Daniel (verses 13-14).
  - a. Confession, petition (supplication) and fasting (verses 15-17).
  - b. Prayed for the restoration of Israel (Deuteronomy 30:1-3).
  - c. Blessing depends on obedience to God. God always keeps His covenants, therefore God still has a place for the Jews (i.e. Tribulation then Millennium).
  - d. Daniel petitions God to restore Israel based upon God's mercy and not by anything that Israel deserved or merits (verses 18-19)

#### II. The Response of the Lord (verses 20-27).

1. Gabriel pays Daniel a compliment, "highly esteemed" (verse 23)
2. The 70 "Sevens",  $70 \times 7 = 490$  years. After 490 years God will have completed 6 things for Israel (verse 24).

The first 3 have to do with sin and were taken care of on the cross.

The second 3 have to do with the Kingdom (Millennium).

All six will be realized by Israel at the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. At the end of 490 years God will finish the transgression (apostasy) of Israel.
2. God will put an end to sin, in the sense of judging it finally.
3. God will atone for wickedness (iniquity). Propitiation = God is satisfied-propitiated (paid for) by Christ's blood, means that God can atone or expiate sin.
4. God will bring in everlasting righteousness (Millennial Kingdom).
5. God will seal up vision and prophecy. His covenant with Israel will be fulfilled.
6. God will anoint the most Holy Place (Holy of Holies in the millennial Temple).

\*These six accomplishments summarize God's whole program to bring the nation Israel the blessings He promised through His covenants (Genesis 15:18-21, 2 Samuel 7:16, Jeremiah 31:31-34).

### III. The 70 Sevens (9:24).

- a.  $70 \times 7 = 490$  years to complete the 6 things God promised
- b. The starting point (verse 25).
  1. The issue of the 4 decrees to restore and rebuild Jerusalem.
  2. 1<sup>st</sup> decree –Cyrus-(538 B.C., 2 Chronicles 36:22-23, Ezra 1:1-4).
  3. 2<sup>nd</sup> decree-Darius I (522 -486 B.C.) in 512 B.C. (Ezra 6:1, 6-12).  
Confirmation of the 1<sup>st</sup> decree, 2<sup>nd</sup> decree confirms the 1<sup>st</sup> decree.
  4. 3<sup>rd</sup> decree-Artaxerxes (465-423 B.C.) in 457 B.C.
  5. The first 2 decrees were the rebuilding of the Temple
  6. The 3<sup>rd</sup> decree was to finance animal sacrifices in the Temple.
  7. These 3 say nothing of rebuilding the city itself, therefore an unwallled city in that time was no threat to military powers.
  8. The 4<sup>th</sup> decree was the one that formed the beginning of the 70 “Sevens”.
- c. Artaxerxes issued the 4<sup>th</sup> decree in March 445 B.C.
- d. Nehemiah was the cupbearer to Artaxerxes—the cupbearer certified that the wine the King drank was not poisoned, therefore, Nehemiah was a trusted servant and had an influential rule.
- e. Granted the Jews permission to build Jerusalem’s city walls.
- f. Nehemiah received permission from Artaxerxes to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls (Nehemiah) 1:1-5).
- g. This is the decree referred to in Daniel 9:25-“it will be built with plaza and moat.”
  1. Plaza or street: large open space inside the gates where business was conducted.
  2. Moat: deep trench outside the wall to protect the city.
- h. The end goal of the prophecy is the appearance of the Anointed one (Lord Jesus Christ, verse 24).
  1. The anointing in Daniel 9:24 refers to the anointing of Christ as the ruler of His Kingdom (Millennium).
  2. Daniel 9:24 anointing prophecy does not end with the 1<sup>st</sup> advent but with the 2<sup>nd</sup> advent and the establishing of the Millennial Kingdom.
- i. Until the Messiah, the Prince, there will be 7 weeks and 62 weeks (v.25).

IV. Seventy Weeks of Daniel as Understood by Sir Robert Anderson (1841-1918) who wrote *The Coming Prince* in 1895. He was a lay preacher and Chief of the Criminal Investigation Department in Scotland Yard in 1888. Authored 17 Christian Books.

Dan. 9:24-25 says that the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the coming of the Messiah there will be 483 years. 7 weeks + 62 weeks = 69 groups of seven years.

$7 \times 69 = 483$  years.

Anderson sees a prophetic year as 360 days. This is based on the Jewish Lunar Calendar (Exodus 12: 2; Rev.11:2-3; Rev. 12:6; Rev. 13:5 which indicate that 42 months 3 1/2 years are equal to 1,260 days. Therefore, 483 years x 360 days = 173,880 days.

Artaxerxes started his reign in 465 B.C. The decree to rebuild Jerusalem was given on the first day of Nisan, in the 20th year of Artaxerxes. In our calendar system (the Julian calendar) that date is March 14, 445 B.C. (Neh. 2:1).

Jesus started His ministry in the 15th year of Tiberius (see Luke 3:1). Tiberius started his reign in 14 A.D., so Jesus' ministry started in 29 A.D. Anderson believes that Jesus celebrated four Passovers during His ministry, one each in 29, 30, 31 and His final Passover in 32. With the help of lunar charts, we can calculate the exact date of ancient Passovers, so it is possible to calculate the exact day of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as April 6, 32 A.D.

From 445 B.C. to 32 A.D. there are 476 years on the Julian calendar (not 477 years, because there is no year zero).  $476 \text{ years} \times 365 \text{ days} = 173,740 \text{ days}$ . Adjusting for the difference between March 14 and April 6 adds 24 days. Adjusting for leap years over a period of 476 years adds 116 days. The total number of days from March 14, 445 B.C. to April 6, 32 A.D.

$$173,740 + 24 + 116 = 173,880 \text{ days}$$

According to his calendar, Daniel told us there would be 173, 880 days between the decree and the arrival of Messiah, the Prince.

Jesus said to the Jews of this day: *If you had known, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes* (Read Luke 19:42-44).

#### V. The Anointed One was Cut Off (verse 26).

1. Our Lord Jesus Christ was not cut off in the 70<sup>th</sup> Seven, but after the 69<sup>th</sup> Seven.

2. He was cut off after the 7 Sevens + 62 Sevens had run their course.

$$(7 \times 7) + (62 \times 7) = 483 \text{ years.}$$

1. Therefore, there is an interval between the 69<sup>th</sup> Seven and the 70<sup>th</sup> Seven. Christ's crucifixion was in that interval right after His Triumphal Entry which concluded on the 69<sup>th</sup> Seven.

a. The Lord Jesus Christ anticipated the interval when He prophesied the establishing of the Church (Matt. 16:18).

b. Setting aside the nation of Israel for a season in order that the Church might be instituted (Matt.21:42-44).

- c. The Church Age is the interval between the 69<sup>th</sup> week and the 70<sup>th</sup> week.
- 4. Ministry of John the Baptist; “in the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar “(Luke 3:1-3).
  - a. Tiberius reigned from 14 A.D. to 37 A.D.  
 14 A.D. + 15 years = 29 – 1 (in the Spring of the 15<sup>th</sup>, year was not completed) = 28 A.D.  
 Spring of 28 A.D. –exact year when John the Baptist started his ministry.
- 5. Church Bishop Epiphanes writings were found on the Island of Cyprus 300-400 A.D. states that John the Baptist baptized the LJC in the summer of 28 A.D.
  - LJC’s ministry was over 4 Passovers
    - 1. 1<sup>st</sup> Passover-Spring 29 A.D. 3. 3<sup>rd</sup> Passover-31 A.D.
    - 2. 2<sup>nd</sup> Passover-Spring 30 A.D. 4. 4<sup>th</sup> Passover-32 A.D.-crucified
- 6. Lines up with the 69<sup>th</sup> week prophecy in Daniel written 500 years before LJC was crucified.
- 7. Church Bishop Epiphanes writings state that the LJC died in the Spring of 32 A.D.

#### VI. Jerusalem and the Sanctuary, Second Temple (verse 26).

- 1. 538 B.C. Cyrus ended captivity of the Jews and Artaxerxes. Carried out the decree March 445 B.C. (Ezra, Nehemiah).
- 2. LJC said the Temple would be destroyed again on His Triumphal Entry (Luke 19:37-44).
  - a. LJC wept as He saw the city.
  - b. LJC said “If you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes.”
- 3. “the people (Romans) of the prince (Antichrist)”(verse 26).
  - a. 66 A.D. Jewish revolt against the Romans and in 67 A.D. the Romans surrounded Jerusalem and in the Summer of 70 A.D. they broke through the wall and leveled the Temple and the city to the ground.
    - 1. “The 4<sup>th</sup> Beast-Roman Empire (Daniel 7).
      - a. Western ½ of Roman Empire, 1<sup>st</sup> 1,000 years lasted until 476 A.D.-barbarians broke it up.
      - b. Eastern ½ of Roman Empire (Byzantine), 2<sup>nd</sup> 1,000 years, lasted until 1453 A.D.-conquered by the Muslim Empire.
      - c. The invasion by the Roman Empire did not end the Nation of Israel’s sufferings.
- 4. The Leaders rejected the Lord by saying He was of Beelzebul (of the devil), the prince of demons (Matt. 12:24).

5. LJC warned them that if they persisted in that view they would be guilty of sin which there would be no forgiveness (Matt. 12:31).
6. LJC warned the nation that Jerusalem would be destroyed by Gentiles (verse 26, Luke 21:24), and that it would be made desolate (Matt. 23:38) and that destruction would be so complete that not one stone would be left on another (Matt. 24:2).
7. Gabriel said; “even to the end there will be war” (verse 26). Israel will continue to suffer until the end of the 70<sup>th</sup> week even though she has been set aside.
  - a. When its end will come with a flood (outpouring of God’s Devine wrath will destroy the antichrist).
  - b. Therefore, there is a space between the 69<sup>th</sup> week and the 70<sup>th</sup> week, The Church Age.
    1. Revelation 19:11-LJC comes back on a horse called Faithful and Truth and in His Righteousness.
    2. Revelation 19:19-20-Antichrist
    3. Revelation 16:12-16-6<sup>th</sup> Bowl Judgment-the Battle of Armageddon and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of Christ (after the Tribulation).
  - c. Israel’s worst days are still ahead of it before they will come to Him and accept Him as Lord and Savior.

**VII. The 70<sup>th</sup> Week (7 years) Tribulation (verse 27).**

1. Time of Great Distress (Tribulation, Matt. 24:21).
2. And he (the Antichrist), the ruler will come (Daniel 9:27)—shall confirm a covenant with the many (Jews) for 1 week (7 years).
3. The Antichrist, covenant maker, yet final ruler, will be the final head of the 4<sup>th</sup> Empire, the little horn (Antichrist) of the 4<sup>th</sup> Beast (Dan.7:8).
4. What type of covenant will it be?
  - a. A peace covenant-he (Antichrist) will guarantee Israel’s safety in the land. This suggests that Israel will be in her land unable to defend herself for she will have lost any previous support (i.e. USA).
  - b. Israel will welcome the peacemaking role of this head of the Confederation of 10 European (Roman) nations, 10 toes (Dan. 2:41).
  - c. This ruler (Antichrist) will pose as a prince of peace and Israel will accept his authority.

**VIII. In the Middle of the Week (after 3 ½ years) Times, Times, and ½ Time (Dan. 7:25).**

1. He (antichrist) will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offerings.
2. The ruler (antichrist) after gaining world-wide political power, he will assume power in the religious realm also and cause the world to worship him (antichrist).
  - a. i.e. the mark of the beast-666 (Rev. 13:16-18).

3. **He (antichrist) will terminate all organized religions and pose as the world's rightful king and god and as Israel's prince of peace.**
4. **He (antichrist) will then turn against Israel and become her destroyer and defiler.**
5. **The ruler (antichrist) will come—"one who makes desolate will place abominations on a wing of the temple"(verse 27).**
  - a. **LJC referred to this incident (See Matt. 24:1-15). "Therefore when you see the Abomination of Desolation which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place."**
  - b. **Revelation 13:14-15, John wrote that the false prophet will set up an image to this ruler (Antichrist) and that the world will be compelled to worship it.**
  - c. **Mark of the beast for those who worship him (Antichrist), with the mark "666" (Rev. 13:16-18).**

#### **IX. The End of the Antichrist (verse 27).**

1. **The end that is decreed is poured out on him (Antichrist).**
2. **The Antichrist with his false prophet will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Hell) when Christ returns at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent (Rev. 19:20).**
  - a. **It's end (Antichrist) will come with a flood (Dan. 7:11, 9:26). Flood-God's Devine wrath will be poured out.**

#### **Summary:**

**All this to break Israel's stubborn rebellion to bring them into Spiritual unity with God. After the Jews realize that no one in the world is going to help them then they will look to God (Matt. 23:39, "For I say to you, from now on you shall not see Me until you say, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (2<sup>nd</sup> coming). Not until after the times of Great Distress (Tribulation) the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel has been fulfilled!**