

## Daniel 9:24-27

### Seventy Weeks

**Text: Daniel 9**

#### **Introduction:**

1. God had promised that the seed of woman would crush the head of the serpent and the enemy of man would be defeated (Genesis 3:15).
2. He showed that this victory would include blessedness for all through the seed of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
3. This Victor would be a mediator (Job 19:23-27), a ruler (Genesis 49:10), a star (Numbers 24:17), a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:15-19), a priest (1 Samuel 2:35), and a king (1 Samuel 2:10) - ruling from the throne of David (1 Chronicles 17:11-14).
4. During the time of David, the "sweet psalmist of Israel" (2 Samuel 23:1) recorded many prophecies of Jesus in the Psalms.
5. In the writings of the prophets, much more detail about the coming Messiah was given.
6. Daniel showed a detailed timeframe for the coming of the Messiah...

#### **I. THE BACKGROUND**

- A. Daniel prophesied during the captivity of Judah in the land of Babylon.
- B. He was taken to Babylon with the first group of captives and remained in the courts of Babylon throughout the captivity.
- C. The name Daniel means, "God is my judge" or "God will judge."
- D. Chapter 9 probably records the last prophecy received by Daniel.
  1. The book is not recorded in chronological order.
  2. The likely order is chapters 1 - 4, followed by chapters 7, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, and ending with chapter 9.
- E. As such, it carries the history of God's people forward until the time of the Messiah.

#### **II. THE PRAYER (DANIEL 9:1-19)**

- A. Due to his studies (particularly of Isaiah and Jeremiah), Daniel realized that the 70 years of captivity were nearing their end, and he turned his attention to the future of God's people.
- B. As he always did when troubled, Daniel prayed to God.
- C. His prayer began with praise to God for His majesty, power, and faithfulness.
- D. Following this, Daniel acknowledged and confessed the sins of his people.
- E. He recognized God's righteousness and Judah's shamefulness by sinning in rejection of Jehovah.
- F. He then emphasizes God's mercy and forgiveness - demonstrated by the fact that God still cared for His rebellious nation.
- G. Daniel stated that God had kept His promise to punish Israel because of their rebellion.
- H. He continued his prayer by begging for God's anger to be turned away from His people.
- I. Daniel ended his prayer by beseeching the Lord to hear, forgive, and act.

#### **III. THE PROPHECY (DANIEL 9:20-27)**

- A. The child of God should live with the great assurance that Jehovah hears the prayers of His faithful.

## Prophecy of Jesus

- B. So attentive was God to Daniel's prayer that while he was speaking, God sent Gabriel to answer his pleas.
- C. Gabriel's mission was to give Daniel instruction, wisdom, and understanding.
- D. Thus, God revealed a prophecy concerning the future of His people and His plan.
- E. Verse 24 is a summation of the prophecy.
1. The prophecy concerns "thy people" - the Jews - and "thy holy city" - Jerusalem.
  2. The length of time under consideration is 70 weeks.
    - a. The angel now tells him about 70 weeks of years (or, seventy sevens).
    - b. Thus, a period of 490 years is determined for the Jews and Jerusalem.
  3. By the end of these 490 years, six things would be accomplished:
    - a. "To finish the transgression" - *This refers to the end of the sin that had caused Judah's suffering - idolatry. (Cf. Zechariah 13:1-2)*
    - b. "To make an end of sins" - *This refers to the providing of a way for sins to be forgiven absolutely.*
    - c. "To make reconciliation for iniquity" - *This refers to the providing of a means or system by which man could be brought back into fellowship with God - by the removal of sin.*
    - d. "To bring in everlasting righteousness" - *This refers to the system of righteousness by which man may receive eternal life.*
    - e. "To seal up the vision and prophecy" - *This refers to the fulfilling of all Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah and His kingdom.*
    - f. "To anoint the Most Holy" - *This refers to the Messiah - the Christ - being seated on the throne of God and reigning over His kingdom.*
- F. In verses 25-27, the details of the prophecy are given.
- G. The 70 weeks are divided into three periods:
- |    |    |       |   |     |       |
|----|----|-------|---|-----|-------|
| 1. | 7  | Weeks | = | 49  | Years |
| 2. | 62 | Weeks | = | 434 | Years |
| 3. | 1  | Week  | = | 7   | Years |
- H. The 490 years began with the command to restore and build Jerusalem (about 454 BC [Nehemiah 2:1-6]).
- I. The first 7 weeks (or, 49 years) were for the rebuilding of the city (cf. Nehemiah 7:3-4, 66-67, 73; 11:1; Zech. 8:4-7).
- J. The second division of the weeks - 62 weeks (434 years) - covers the period between the Testaments. {*In fact, it brings us to the year AD 29 - the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. This is also the beginning of the last week.*}
- K. The last week covers the 3 ½ years of Jesus' personal ministry and the first 3 ½ years of the Apostles' ministry after Jesus' death (cf. Luke 3:21-23).
1. In the last week, the Messiah would confirm the covenant with the Jews.
  2. For 3 1/2 years, Jesus and His apostles preached to the Jews only (Matthew 10:5-6).
  3. At the end of 3 1/2 years ("in the midst of the week") Jesus was crucified.
  4. Following His resurrection and ascension, the church of Christ was established.
  5. For the next 3 1/2 years (last half of the last week), the Gospel was preached by the apostles to the Jews only (cf. Acts 8).
  6. Thus, for 7 years (1 week) the Gospel was preached to the Jews only.
  7. This was their last chance - destruction was coming!
- L. {*This prophecy can also be interpreted in a more symbolic way, but with the same meaning.*}
- M. The message is clear: Jerusalem and the Temple would continue until the time of the Messiah; then, they would be destroyed.