

Daniel's 70 Weeks

Daniel 9:24-27

10/12/03

Intro

- .

.....
Chapter 9 of Daniel is one of the most important prophecies in the entire bible. It brings together the history and future like no other prophecy.

It begins by Daniel reading in the words of God given through Jeremiah. That's a great place to start. As Daniel was reading he realized that he was living in the time of the fulfillment of God's Word.

So he decided to seek God in prayer. It's a great picture and an example for us. We are living in a time when prophecies are being fulfilled and we should be filled with a sense of expectation and excitement in the times we are living.

It should cause us to get our lives ready. The Lord's return is near.

Illus – If you knew an important visitor was coming, but didn't know when, you would want to be ready...

These, then, are insights into the famous 70 week prophecy of Daniel.

I. 70 Weeks for Israel

A. Daniel was studying God's Word

- He was reading the writings of Jeremiah and discovered the time of Israel's captivity.
- **He read that there were 70 years for the completion of Jerusalem's desolations.**

Jeremiah 25:11-12 These nations will serve Babylon for 70 years.

- **Each year they were in Babylon the land was to enjoy a Sabbath rest. Total missed 70 Sabbaths = 490 years.**

II Chronicles 36:21, "To fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed its Sabbaths. All the days of its desolation it kept Sabbath until the seventy years were complete.

B. So Daniel prayed

Vs 3

- When he realized the 70 years were almost completed, he sought God in prayer and in humility.
- **This prayer is a great example of how to pray in humility and national confession.**

Daniel 9:17-19 "Oh Lord, forgive!"

- The LORD then answered his prayer by sending Gabriel with a message of great prophetic importance.

C. 70 weeks have been declared for your people

- A week refers to a seven year period of time.

Genesis 29:25-28 – When Jacob served Laban, his uncle for seven years to get Rachel as a wife...

- **70 weeks, then, is 490 years for the nation of Israel. The number 490 is important in scripture...**
- 490 years of missed Sabbath years; leading up to the captivity.
- **490 years after the captivity are given to Israel.**

Illus – Peter asked Jesus how many times we should forgive, and he answered 70 times 7. The disciple’s response to such a statement was, “Lord, increase our faith!”

II. The Time of Israel’s Visitation

- A. Jesus fulfilled the prophecy perfectly
 - When Jesus came riding into Jerusalem 483 years later, they did not recognize the time of her visitation.

Luke 19:41-44 Jesus wept because they missed The Day of Their Visitation.

- 7 weeks = the time to rebuild the city. It will be built in times of distress. (see Nehemiah 2)
- 62 weeks = from the rebuilding of the city to the messiah will be 62 more weeks.
- Using the Jewish calendar that would then be...173,880 days.
- March 14, 445 BC to April 6, 32 AD.

- B. Jesus would also make an end to sin
Vs 24
 - Jesus would fulfill all of verse 24.
 - It was Jesus who would make atonement for iniquity. Sin would finally be paid for when Jesus, the Son of God came.

Illus – There is an old joke about the doctor who was always successful... if you didn’t get better, he would touch-up the x-rays. This is the way we would deal with our sin.

Illus – Our efforts always fall short. Like ordering fries, and a double cheeseburger with bacon, then asking for a diet Coke. It’s not enough.

- C. Messiah the Prince will be cut off
 - This is a reference to the crucifixion of Jesus.
 - **He would be cut off and have nothing, but in so doing we would have everything.**

Ephesians 1:3, “Blessed be the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”

III. The 70th Week

A. Time of Jacob's trouble

- There is an important break after the 69th week; this is the period of the Church Age.
- But the 70th week will come, and it will be in regards to Israel.

Jeremiah 30:7, "Alas! for that day is great, so that none is like it: it is the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it."

- **The Church will be saved from it, through the rapture of the church before that great day.**

B. The Antichrist comes

- The title, "Antichrist" makes him sound evil.
- But he will come as a "false Christ."
- That means he will present himself as a peacemaker and will appear to be a genius of diplomacy.
- He will make a firm covenant with "the many" for one week, but will betray it in the middle of that week.

Daniel 7:25 - time, times, and half a time...

C. What this means for us

- These prophecies are given for our encouragement.
- It puts our lives in perspective.
- **We get so caught up in our little things, but we need to understand the big picture.**

Illus – helping Misha with his math, it's important to understand the big picture.

Conclusion

Our faith is strengthened when we know that God is in control. God knew the end before even one day was lived.