
REVELATION STUDY

SESSION 10

70 Weeks of Daniel

The book of Daniel is often questioned by critical scholars for its dating due to how accurate the fulfilment of prophecy is. But it is essential to realise that it was translated into Greek prior to 270 BC, around 300 years prior to the events it so accurately describes. This is a well-established fact of secular history.

Daniel was deported from Israel as a teenager, and educated to serve in the government of Babylon. At the time of the events recorded in chapter 9, it has now been 68 years since the beginning of the captivity.

What does Daniel do when he realises God's Promises are about to become reality?

Knowing that Jeremiah recorded that the exile would last 70 years, Daniel begins to pray passionately for his people – a prayer of repentance, acknowledging and calling on God's faithfulness to fulfill His promise.

The Angel Gabriel (Same angel who appears to Mary, Joseph & Zechariah (messenger of the Messiah)), interrupts his prayer with what is possibly the most remarkable prophecy in the Bible. Daniel 9:24 – 27

These four verses include the following:

- 9:24 – The overview of the prophecy
- 9:25 – The 69 weeks
- 9:26 – The interval between the 69th and 70th Week (obvious because of the destruction of the temple)
- 9:27 – The 70th week

The Overview (v24)

“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.

The idiom of a 'week' of years was common in Israel as a 'sabbath for the land,' in which the land was to lie fallow every seventh year. (Leviticus 25:1 – 22, 26:3 – 35; Deuteronomy 15). It was actually their failure to obey these specific laws that, at very least, was a part of the reason for their exile (2 Chronicles 36:20 – 21)

It is vital to understanding this passage – and indeed the whole of history, especially the Great Tribulation, that you recognise the focus of this prophecy:

Who is the focus of this prophecy?

“For your people and for your holy city.”

Who are Daniel's people?

Which is the Holy City?

List the items included in the overview:

- To finish the transgression
- To make an end of sins
- To make reconciliation for iniquity
- Bring in everlasting righteousness
- Seal up vision and prophecy
- Anoint the most Holy place

Which of these are fulfilled – and which are yet unfulfilled?

The First 69 Weeks (v25)

“Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

The Jewish calendar (also the Babylonian calendar) used a 360-day year.

Going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem – fulfilled Nehemiah 2 (14th March 445 BC)

Messiah the Prince – translated Meshiach Nagid (The Messiah the King) – this is the only day that Jesus presented Himself as King – Luke 19:28 – 44 (6th April 32 AD)

When we examine the period between 14th March 445 BC and 6th April 32 AD and correct for leap years, we discover that it is 173,880 days exactly. Do the maths ... $360 \text{ (year)} \times 7 \text{ (weeks of years)} \times 69 = ???$

Remember, secular history confirms that the book of Daniel was translated from Hebrew and Aramaic (it is written in both – another interesting story) at least 3 centuries prior to the fulfilment of the prophecy.

The Interval (v26)

“And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.

There is a very clear gap (interval) between the 69th week and the 70th week, during which a number of things will take place. These include the crucifixion of Jesus and the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. According to Jesus' words in Luke 19:43 – 44, the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple was because they were not prepared for the fulfilment of this prophecy given to Daniel. “Because you did not know the day of your visitation.”

They mystery here is that this interval has lasted 2,000 years and it is the time [when God would choose to work in the world through the Body of Christ – the Church](#). BUT – the interval will end and there will then be the next ‘week’ (seven years) – the Seventieth Week:

The 70th Week (v27)

Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.”

From the beginning of verse 27 – God will once again focus His attention [in the world – reaching out through the world – through Israel ... remember these words in the outline](#):

Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city...

This period of 7 years would have to be one of the most documented period of time in the Bible (in terms of number of references, not space allocated). It is the period we are studying as we journey through Revelation 4 – 19.

What does this verse (Daniel 9:27) teach us about the 70th week of Daniel 9? [Some very important information](#):

- The [starting point of the 70th week](#): ‘he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week’

‘he’ refers to the most recent man spoken of. In verse 26 we read ‘and the people of the prince who is to come’ in reference to the destruction of the temple. That means that ‘the prince who is to come’ (antichrist) will connected with the ‘revived Roman empire’ as it was they who destroyed the city and the temple in 70 AD under Titus Vespasian.

‘confirm a covenant’ seems to indicate that in some way the covenant will already be in place, but the language states that he will make it bigger and better. The confirmation of the covenant sets the clock ticking on the 7 years.

‘with many’ would seem to suggest that the covenant will be between Israel and many nations

‘for one week’ it will be a seven year covenant.

- ‘in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering’ would indicate that [sacrifices have started in a rebuilt temple](#). This is the passage that Jesus is referring to in the Olivet Discourse:

 Matthew 24:15

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),

The Apostle Paul sheds further light on this:

 2 Thessalonians 2:3 – 4

Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

So what do we know for sure about all this?

1. God prophesied a pre-determined period of time – through which His attention in the world will be through Israel, before the Lord returns to the earth to Rule and Reign as promised.
2. There are still 7 years unaccounted for in world history.
3. There is an interval – a gap – that we now understand God to be working through the Church where the Holy Spirit lives in all believers and it is the churches mandate to be a testimony to the Death, Burial, Resurrection and Lordship of Jesus.
4. That interval is fast coming to a close – and the world will face great trial and judgment as promised.

From Question Sheet

Revelation 12:6 describes the remnant of Israel being sheltered by God in the wilderness for the last three and a half years, the time Jesus called a time of 'Great Tribulation.' Read Isaiah 63 and compare with this chapter and Revelation 19 to gain some insight into why some believe that the place God has prepared to shelter Israel as being Petra in Jordan, the modern location of Bozrah.

Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days. (Revelation 12:6)

Who is this who comes from Edom, With dyed garments from Bozrah, This One who is glorious in His apparel, Traveling in the greatness of His strength?— "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." ²Why is Your apparel red, And Your garments like one who treads in the winepress?


³"I have trodden the winepress alone, And from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, And trampled them in My fury; Their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, And I have stained all My robes. ⁴For the day of vengeance is in My heart, And the year of My redeemed has come. (Isaiah 63:1 – 4)

Behold, He shall come up and fly like the eagle, And spread His wings over Bozrah; The heart of the mighty men of Edom in that day shall be Like the heart of a woman in birth pangs. (Jeremiah 49:22)

Where else is 'day of vengeance mentioned?' (Isaiah 61:2) What is the significance of this? It is the part Jesus left out of his commission reading in the Synagogue in Nazareth.

Read Daniel 11:41, and with the understanding that 'he' refers to antichrist, the Glorious Land speaks of Israel, and Edom, Moab and Ammon include modern day Jordan, consider how this passage also makes provision for the sheltering of the remnant of Israel through the Great Tribulation.

He shall also enter the Glorious Land, and many countries shall be overthrown; but these shall escape from his hand: Edom, Moab, and the prominent people of Ammon. (Daneil 11:41)

 Read Job 1:6 – 12 and 2:1 – 7.

Where is Satan located in these passages?

What is he doing?

What does this teach you about Satan's intent for people who honour God?

How do these passages compare with Revelation 12:9? I.e., what happens to Satan in this verse?

What does Satan do in response?

Verse 14 speaks of the women (Israel) being given two wings of a great eagle to escape to the wilderness where she would be protected from Satan's attack. Read Exodus 19:4: What do these two passages teach us? How does this correspond with the Jeremiah 49:22 reading above?

Israel is protected in the Wilderness for the final three and a half years of this age, what does Revelation 11:1 – 4 tells us is taking place in Jerusalem during this same period of time?

This chapter demonstrates, in part, how God deals with Satan. What is Satan's destiny? Revelation 19:19 – 20 and then ultimately: Revelation 20:10

Knowing how careful and thorough God is with dealing with the work of the enemy, how has this changed your thoughts about the destiny of the world, and your purpose in it?