



## SESSION 8 **THE SEVENTY WEEKS OF DANIEL, PART 1**

Daniel 9:1-26

*Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Daniel chapter 9 is the most meticulous prophetic text in all of Scripture.

It focuses in tightly on the coming of the Messiah and the end times and uses very specific language to unveil a timeline of history yet to be revealed. Much of the prophetic timeline is conditional. Clues are given as to the chronological order of events and insight is given into which are required as prerequisites before others can occur. With a little historical knowledge and some basic math skills an incredible picture of the order of human history is revealed.

The “seventy weeks” in this section of Daniel refers to the 490-year period beginning around 444 B.C. when the decree was issued to rebuild and restore Jerusalem. It culminates when the Kingdom of God is established in its fullness. This seems to indicate that God’s kingdom would have been established around 46 A.D. However, one can hardly watch the nightly news or read the morning paper and think that we live in the midst of His kingdom.

The question of Daniel chapter 9 then is, what happened? What interrupted the flow of time? Why has the Kingdom of God not been established yet? Or has it been established and we simply missed it?

In this session we will walk through the “seventy weeks” of Daniel and discover why we are still waiting for history to be completed and the Kingdom of God to be marvelously revealed upon this earth.

**Daniel's Prayer for His People**

- 1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of Median descent, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans--
- 2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, observed in the books the number of the years which was revealed as the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.
- 3 So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes.
- 4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and lovingkindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments,
- 5 we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Your commandments and ordinances.
- 6 "Moreover, we have not listened to Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings, our princes, our fathers and all the people of the land.
- 7 "Righteousness belongs to You, O Lord, but to us open shame, as it is this day--to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those who are nearby and those who are far away in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of their unfaithful deeds which they have committed against You.
- 8 "Open shame belongs to us, O Lord, to our kings, our princes and our fathers, because we have sinned against You.
- 9 "To the Lord our God belong compassion and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against Him;
- 10 nor have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in His teachings which He set before us through His servants the prophets.

- 11 “Indeed all Israel has transgressed Your law and turned aside, not obeying Your voice; so the curse has been poured out on us, along with the oath which is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, for we have sinned against Him.
- 12 “Thus He has confirmed His words which He had spoken against us and against our rulers who ruled us, to bring on us great calamity; for under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what was done to Jerusalem.
- 13 “As it is written in the law of Moses, all this calamity has come on us; yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our iniquity and giving attention to Your truth.
- 14 “Therefore the LORD has kept the calamity in store and brought it on us; for the LORD our God is righteous with respect to all His deeds which He has done, but we have not obeyed His voice.
- 15 “And now, O Lord our God, who have brought Your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand and have made a name for Yourself, as it is this day--we have sinned, we have been wicked.
- 16 “O Lord, in accordance with all Your righteous acts, let now Your anger and Your wrath turn away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; for because of our sins and the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people have become a reproach to all those around us.
- 17 “So now, our God, listen to the prayer of Your servant and to his supplications, and for Your sake, O Lord, let Your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary.

- 18 “O my God, incline Your ear and hear! Open Your eyes and see our desolations and the city which is called by Your name; for we are not presenting our supplications before You on account of any merits of our own, but on account of Your great compassion.
- 19 “O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! For Your own sake, O my God, do not delay, because Your city and Your people are called by Your name.”

### **Gabriel Brings an Answer**

- 20 Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God,
- 21 while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering.
- 22 He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you insight with understanding.
- 23 “At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.

## Seventy Weeks and the Messiah

- 24 “Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.
- 25 “So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.
- 26 “Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

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## NOTES

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *How is Israel's deliverance from Babylon and the coming of the Kingdom of God a near and far fulfillment of prophecy?*

2. *According to Daniel 9:24, what is God's purpose for the 70 weeks?*

**“Daniel goes broad, he goes narrower and now in chapter 9... we're going to get down tight...it is the most meticulous of all prophetic texts on the events of the end times.”**

**- Tommy Nelson**

3. *As the church in the 21st century, where do we fall on the 70 weeks of Daniel timeline? According to Daniel 9:26, why has the 70th week not yet occurred?*

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

4. Tommy Nelson's response was simply to look at his Bible and say, "This is the Word of God." After looking at the historical timeline and chronology of events outlined in Daniel 9:1-26, what effect does it have on your perspective of the Word of God?

5. What benefit is there in understanding the 70 weeks of Daniel? What practical applications does this knowledge of historical and future events have on our lives today?

**"These inspired words of prophecy speak of the days to come. They also speak of the coming Messiah, through whom God will provide the forgiveness of sins and bring to earth the kingdom of God."  
- Bob Deffinbaugh**