

# Daniel 9

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Daniel's Prayer—Confession of Sin, A Plea for Mercy and Forgiveness, A Plea for the City of Jerusalem and God's Sanctuary

The Vision of 70 Weeks

# A Word or Two About the Man, Daniel

- Adding to what we've seen previously in the book.
- Read 9:2.
  - Jeremiah 25:11; 29:10.
- Read 9:20–23.

## More on Daniel's Prayer

- Throughout Daniel's prayer, the city of Jerusalem is very much on his mind (9:7, 16, 18, 19).
  - Note especially the use of the word **desolate** or **desolations**, when used to describe the condition of the city and the temple (9:2, 17–18).
- This vision reveals to Daniel news about Jerusalem and its future.
  - Is it good news or bad news?
  - It will be restored and rebuilt, but one day be brought to a full end, or made **desolate**.

# Did Jesus speak of this coming destruction?

- Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 17, 21.
- It took place in A.D. 70, when the Roman army, led by a general named Titus, destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.
- “Therefore when you see the **‘abomination of desolation,’** spoken of by **Daniel the prophet,** standing in the holy place...then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains” (Matthew 24:15).

# 70 Weeks?

- Does each week represent a year, and so 490 years?
  - If so, God didn't tell us!
  - He DID tell us in Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:4–6.
- Many who use an exact chronology start with 445 B.C., when Artaxerxes issued the command for Nehemiah to return and rebuild walls (Neh. 2:1).
  - Isa. 44:26–28; 45:1–13 tell us that Cyrus would issue the command, and using Ezra 1:1–4, that would be about 538/37 B.C.
- Even those who use 445 B.C. have to insert mysterious gaps in the chronology.

# Significance of the Number 7

- Gen. 4:15: “whoever kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him **sevenfold.**”
- Numbers 11:16–30: **70** elders to represent the people.
- Ezekiel 8:11: **70** elders, representing the complete corruption of the nation.
- Zechariah 3:9; 4:10: The **7** eyes of God.
- Matt. 18:21: forgive “**seventy times seven.**”
- Revelation: **7** churches, lampstands, horns, eyes, seals, trumpets, bowls, plagues, etc.

# The Vision: Daniel 9:24–27

- Verse 24 is more of a **general** statement, or **overview**, outlining the things that will take place during the 70 weeks period.
- Verses 25–27 is more **detailed**, at least in terms of breaking the weeks down into segments.

# The Overview in Verse 24

- Something is determined or decreed “for your people and for your holy city.” (Restored, rebuilt, but then what?)
- Three things: Finish (or restrain) the transgression, make an end of sins (or seal it up), make reconciliation for iniquity (make atonement for iniquity, or forgive iniquity).
  - Waldron: “It seems best to me for the first expression to mean put away apostasy and rebellion, an attitude that characterizes the disobedient. The second expression means to make an end of the practice of sin, and the third, to remove the guilt of sin.”
  - Hard not to see the work of Jesus here (Hebrews 9:26).



# The Overview in Verse 24

- Bring in everlasting righteousness.
  - He doesn't just **take away** sin, He **brings in** righteousness.
  - Romans 1:17: “For in it (the gospel) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, ‘The just shall live by faith.’” (Rev. 14:6: “everlasting gospel”).
- Seal up vision and prophecy.
  - Acts 3:24: “All the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days.”
  - 1 Peter 1:10–12.

# The Overview in Verse 24

- Anoint the Most Holy (literally holy of holies, or holiest).
  - Hard not to see a connection to what is said about the Messiah in the following verses, especially since the word means “anointed.”
  - The anointing of the Messiah is certainly a prominent theme in prophecy (Psa. 2:2; 45:7; Isa. 61:1; Zech. 4:14; 6:13; Luke 4:18–19).

# 70 Weeks (25–27)

Command to  
restore, rebuild  
Jerusalem



Desolation  
upon Jerusalem  
and temple

7  
Weeks

62  
Weeks

1  
Week

Restoration,  
rebuilding of  
Jerusalem,  
“even in  
troublesome  
times” (25).

Not much detail provided, but  
these weeks do bring us to whom?  
“Until Messiah the Prince” (25).

Very  
Eventful

# The Very Eventful Final Week

- “Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself” (“and have nothing”—NAS, and others) (v. 26).
  - “For He was cut off from the land of the living” (Isa. 53:8).
- “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” (v. 26b, NAS).

# The Very Eventful Final Week

- “Then he shall confirm a covenant (“make a firm covenant”—NAS) with many for one week” (27).
  - (?) The new covenant, already established by Christ, would be further strengthened, its permanence clearly demonstrated when all the debris from the old covenant was swept away.
  - “In that He says, ‘A new covenant,’ He has made the first obsolete. Now what is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away” (Heb. 8:13).

# The Very Eventful Final Week

- “But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering” (27).
  - The sacrifice of Christ rendered the O.T. sacrifices null and void (Hebrews 10:1–18), but is that the meaning here?
  - Or does it mean that the Jewish sacrificial system was forever disrupted when Jerusalem was destroyed?
  - Josephus reports that it was on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of Panemus, or Tamuz [Tammuz], which was the fourth month, corresponding to our June/July, that the “sacrifice called ‘the Daily Sacrifice’ had failed (Josephus, Wars, Book vi, ii, 1).

# The Very Eventful Final Week

- “and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate” (27).
- “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart...” (Luke 21:20–21).