

## Daniel 9: 20-27

Last week we read thru that amazing prayer of Daniel. It was impassioned, direct, truthful and gloried and exalted his LORD God Almighty who directs His creation towards His ultimate plans and purposes which are outworking's of His grace, mercy, justice and love towards the world which has not given Him the glory due His Name.

(Daniel 9:20 NKJV) Now while I *was* speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, (21) yes, while I *was* speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, **being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.** (22) And he informed *me*, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.

Daniel, as we recall, realizes that the time of Babylonian captivity is near. Most estimates have it within 2 years of the time in this chapter. The prayer is directed towards his people Israel.

While praying the angel Gabriel "flies" in about 3pm. This is the "normal" time of the evening sacrifice and so Daniel prays because there is no Temple and no altar. Daniel recognizes him from the previous vision of the Ram and Goat.

Daniel calls him "the man" because that is the form the angel has taken.

The Hebrew in the verse seems to also speak about exhaustion (the translation "fly swiftly" can mean weary and utterly exhausted). The problem is, some think this refers to Gabriel and I don't know how an angel could get this way. Most translations just say, "fly swiftly", not trying to figure out who is exhausted. There is precedence for Daniel to be exhausted in other prayer sessions.

The verse "skill to understand" might also be translated, "Daniel, I have come to give you wisdom and to help you understand".

(Daniel 9:23 NKJV) At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell *you*, for you *are* greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

At the beginning of your prayer: right from the start God heard his cries.

Daniel, being an old man by now, hears something that everyone would love to hear, "You are greatly beloved". Daniel certainly lived a life of faith, service and sacrifice. He was rescued, he was promoted, he was truly a man who was made in the image of his God. Not everyone with whom he came in contact, came to faith in the Most High God, but Daniel never stained his LORD's reputation.

And, because you are beloved of God, I, Gabriel, have been sent to tell you to consider the matter and understand the vision. (In the Hebrew, the word for "consider" and "understand" is the same word).

Now, with that bit of introduction, let's read the entire vision of the future:

**Daniel 9:24-27 NKJV** "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. (25) "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. (26) "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. (27) 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."

Several critical things are required for our proper understanding of these 4 verses:

1. This is about Israel and her Messiah – even though it encompasses the time of Jesus' first coming, there is no thought of gentiles in these verses. Again, that doesn't negate or make less important the work of Messiah for the gentiles who need salvation as much as the Jews do.
2. "weeks" is weeks of years,
  - a. so seventy weeks is  $70 \times 7 = 490$  years.
  - b. There is nearly universal agreement that it's years and not days, although it doesn't stop some to think that 490 days is adequate.
3. The weeks are divided into:
  - a. The decree to rebuild Jerusalem ( $7 \times 7$  years = 49 years)
  - b. The time from the rebuilding and the coming Messiah ( $62 \times 7 = 434$  years)
4. The time of Jacob's trouble  $7 \times 1 = 7$  years +  $434 + 49 = 490$  years.
5. Some of these time-blocks are contiguous and some have future fulfillment.
6. This passages of 4 verses has caused more controversy than all the other prophesy together.

(Daniel 9:24 NKJV) "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.

There will be 70 weeks total that will deal with Israel (your people) and Jerusalem, the city of the King.

1. To finish the transgression (rebellion)
2. To Make an end to sins (offense; habitual sinfulness; can refer to offerings made for sin)
3. To make reconciliation for iniquity (perversity)
4. To bring everlasting righteousness
5. To seal up vision and prophecy (mark the end of visions and prophesy)
6. To anoint the "Most Holy" ("pour oil" – consecrate; normally a place or thing")

Again, this is the entire period under examination – the 490 years spread over an indeterminate amount of time; we **only** know at this moment of the total  $70 \times 7$  years, that is, the big picture and it's a picture of God's dealings with the Nation of Israel.

So,

1. To finish transgression - Israel was always (and still is) a rebellious nation. The greatest act was the rejection of Messiah. Peter understood this in his when he told the Jews in the temple
  - a. Acts 3:19-21 NKJV Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, (20) and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, (21) whom heaven must

receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

- b. Rebellious Israel must repent and come back to the LORD in order for His return.
  - i. **Matthew 23:37-39 NKJV** "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under *her* wings, but you were not willing! (38) See! Your house is left to you desolate; (39) for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, 'BLESSED is HE WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!' "
2. To make an end to sin – for Israel is too is a “end of time” goal, that is, God will convince Israel of their sin as, like us, the Spirit of Grace convicts them of their “missing the mark”.
3. To make atonement for iniquity – this is Jesus’ work on the cross that takes away the sin, not just covering it. This will be achieved after the last person is saved and the Body of Christ is complete before the 70<sup>th</sup> week. It will be during the 70<sup>th</sup> week that God "... will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only *son*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. (**Zechariah 12:10 NKJV**)
  - a. **Isaiah 59:20-21 NKJV** "The Redeemer will come to Zion, And to those who turn from transgression in Jacob," Says the LORD. (21) "As for Me," says the LORD, "this *is* My covenant with them: My Spirit who *is* upon you, and My words which I have put in your mouth, shall not depart from your mouth, nor from the mouth of your descendants, nor from the mouth of your descendants' descendants," says the LORD, "from this time and forevermore."
  - b. **Jeremiah 31:31-34 NKJV** "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— (32) not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. (33) But this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. (34) No more shall every man teach his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."
  - c. **Ezekiel 36:25-27 NKJV** Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. (26) I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. (27) I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do *them*.
4. To bring everlasting righteousness - this and the next 2 are the positive things that will occur to Israel as compared to the last three “negative” things – This is seen in
  - a. **Isaiah 11:2-5 NKJV** The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (3) His delight *is* in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; (4) But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. (5) Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

- b. **Jeremiah 23:3-6 NKJV** "But I will gather the remnant of My flock out of all countries where I have driven them, and bring them back to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. (4) I will set up shepherds over them who will feed them; and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, nor shall they be lacking," says the LORD. (5) "Behold, *the* days are coming," says the LORD, "That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. (6) In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this *is* His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.
5. To seal up vision and prophecy (mark the end of visions and prophecy) – in the Millennial kingdom, with Jesus on the Throne and King over the earth, all prophecy will have been fulfilled.
  6. To anoint the “Most Holy” (“pour oil” – consecrate; normally a place or thing”) – this is considered by some to be the anointing of the Holy of Holies that is in the Millennial Temple.

**(Daniel 9:25 NKJV)** "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.

Then Gabriel tells Daniel that there will be 7 weeks and 62 weeks. This was to start from the command to restore and build Jerusalem – not from the start of the time to build the temple.

Again, these 69 weeks concern the Jewish people even though there’s a strong reference to Messiah the Prince, that is, Jesus. Daniel has no idea about gentiles or gentile nations. So this time of the Messiah does not, in this prophecy concern the Church (made up of Jews and Gentiles) or the gentile nations. If the church is not being considered in the first 69 weeks (with THIS prophecy), then it is logical to understand that even the 70<sup>th</sup> week will not include the church!

“the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem” – this gives a time marker to start the 70 weeks countdown. Most scholars agree that this occurred in 444 BC when the decree was sent out by Artaxerxes.

**Nehemiah 2:3-8 NKJV** and said to the king, "May the king live forever! Why should my face not be sad, when the city, the place of my fathers' tombs, *lies* waste, and its gates are burned with fire?" ... (5) And I said to the king, "If it pleases the king, and if your servant has found favor in your sight, I ask that you send me to Judah, to the city of my fathers' tombs, that I may rebuild it." ... (8) and a letter to Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he must give me timber to make beams for the gates of the citadel which *pertains* to the temple, for the city wall, and for the house that I will occupy." And the king granted *them* to me according to the good hand of my God upon me.

It took the 7 weeks of years to accomplish this. This then ended that small period of time (49 years) in the 490 year period.

Then comes the next period of time, 62 weeks until the time of the Messiah:

**(Daniel 9:26 NKJV)** "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.

The prophesy doesn't include the birth of Messiah. That's handled elsewhere (Isaiah, Micah, etc).

But it does that after 434 more years (or, 483 total years from 444 BC), the Messiah will be killed. There have been at least 2 attempts to date this event prophetically (that is, how accurate was the vision in Daniel 9:26?). The most famous is Sir Robert Anderson's lunar calculation which is on the left hand side of the handout (and at the end of these notes). The other was by Harold Hoehner who tried to refine Anderson's simple calculation. I don't understand the addition of the 24 days even after reading Hoehner's explanation.

But regardless of trying to get to a specific year, month, day, the fact is, Messiah was killed on 33AD.

And, "not for Himself", that is, God told Daniel that Messiah would not be killed for anything He had done!

And, He was to be killed before the city was destroyed in 70AD by the Romans (the people of the prince) . These 2 events had to be completed before the 70<sup>th</sup> week began as we will see in verse 27.

**(Daniel 9:27 NKJV)** 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."

This is Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week. There is certainly a gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup>. No other interpretation satisfies the plain meaning of the text. After Messiah was killed, some man did not make a 7 year covenant, there was no man who, 3 1/2 years later, caused sacrifices to end and there was no man who declared himself to be God in Temple as recorded in Daniel 8, 11 and 12.

It is frustrating, I suspect, to read this about Messiah and not see the Gentiles clearly prophesized in these events. Why didn't God tell Daniel of Israel's rejection and the multitude of gentiles coming to Messiah's saving grace without having to be under the Mosaic Covenant? First, God did tell Daniel that Messiah would be killed by the Jews. But, Daniel didn't need to know all about the gentiles for he was writing about his people, Israel. We, of course, looking back with 20-20 eyesight, see how, when Messiah came the first time, fulfilled at least one of the 6 goals outlined in verse 24 – to make reconciliation for iniquity. Even for the gentiles, our perfection is not going to happen until we are home with the LORD, either by rapture or by the hand of God.

There is, in this prophesy, a sweeping 30-thousand feet view of history and the nearly the end of history. We must finish the book to see more of what is revealed.

**Ephesians 2:1-22 NKJV** And you *He made alive*, who were dead in trespasses and sins, (2) in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, (3) among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and

were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. (4) But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, (7) that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (8) For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, (9) not of works, lest anyone should boast. (10) For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. (11) Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— (12) that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. (13) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. (14) For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, (15) having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, (16) and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. (17) And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. (18) For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. (19) Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, (20) having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, (21) in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, (22) in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

## The 483 Years in the Jewish and Gregorian Calendars

### Jewish Calendar (360 days per year\*)

$(7 \times 7) + (62 \times 7)$  years = 483 years

$$\begin{array}{r} 483 \text{ years} \\ \times 360 \text{ days} \\ \hline 173,880 \text{ days} \end{array}$$

### Gregorian Calendar (365 days a year)

444 B.C. to A.D. 33 = 476 years †

$$\begin{array}{r} 476 \text{ years} \\ \times 365 \text{ days} \\ \hline 173,740 \text{ days} \\ + 116 \text{ days in leap years} \ddagger \\ + 24 \text{ days (March 5-March 30)} \\ \hline 173,880 \text{ days} \end{array}$$

\*See comments on Daniel 9:27b for confirmation of this 360-day year.

†Since only one year expired between 1 B.C. and A.D. 1, the total is 476, not 477.

‡A total of 476 years divided by four (a leap year every four years) gives 119 additional days. But three days must be subtracted from 119 because centennial years are not leap years, though every 400th year is a leap year.