

The Book of Daniel Part 14

Daniel 9:1-25

by Erik Olsen

9:1-2: "In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the lineage of the Medes, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans — 2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the **word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet**, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem."

--Jeremiah 25:8-11: God speaks through the prophet Jeremiah, "Because you have not heard My Words... [describes judgement through Nebuchadnezzar on both Israel and other nations in the region] ... And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and **these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.**"

--70 years is a general period of time that approximates the timing of several nations conquered by Babylon... For Israel, the 70 years began with the first deportation (which included Daniel) to Babylon in 605 B.C. and ended in the year the foundation of the temple was rebuilt in Jerusalem in 535 B.C.

--Jeremiah 25:12: "Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity," says the Lord"

--at the time of ch.9, Daniel has just witnessed the fall of Babylon; therefore he knew the 70 years was over, and so he prayed...

9:3-23: "**Then I set my face toward the Lord God to make request by prayer and supplications**, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes. And I prayed to the LORD my God, and made confession, and said, "O Lord, great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant and mercy with those who love Him, and with those who keep His commandments, 5 we have sinned and committed iniquity, we have done wickedly and rebelled, even by departing from Your precepts and Your judgments. 6 Neither have we heeded Your servants the prophets, who spoke in Your name to our kings and our princes, to our fathers and all the people of the land. 7 O Lord, righteousness belongs to You, but to us shame of face, as it is this day — to the men of Judah, to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and all Israel, those near and those far off in all the countries to which You have driven them, because of the unfaithfulness which they have committed against You. ... 20 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. 23 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:"

--What was on Daniel's mind as he prayed?

--he had witnessed firsthand the fall of Israel...

--the temple was destroyed and the system of sacrifices that was once the centerpiece of life in Israel had come to a halt.

--9:21: "**at about the time of the evening offering...**" Daniel notes the time when the angel met him in his prayers... in the foreign land of Babylon he prayed at the time when sacrifices were once made in the temple in Jerusalem

--6:10: **Daniel's customary prayer time in Babylon:** "...**And in his upper room with his windows open toward Jerusalem**, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days."

--Israel has no king, yet God had said the throne of David would last forever

--1 Kings 2:45: "...the throne of David shall be established before the LORD forever."

--*Who will be the next King of Israel? How will the nation be reestablished? Nothing is too difficult for God... in the past He delivered Israel out of Egyptian slavery to the heights of power and He could do it again...*

--little did Daniel know just how different Israel's future would be than their past.

--The deliverance from slavery in Egypt to freedom was nothing compared to what was yet to come... and the angel Gabriel's message adds more prophetic detail to the visions Daniel had already seen...

9:24a: "**Seventy weeks** are determined for your people and for your holy city..."

--Jewish idiom: a "week of years" = 7 years

-Lev. 25:8: "And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; **and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years.**"

9:25: "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."

--3 major returns to Jerusalem recorded in the Bible...

605 BC 70 years of desolation begins...

605 BC: first deportation to Babylon (including Daniel)

539 BC: Daniel's prayer

(1) 538 BC: Cyrus' decree for first group of Jews led by Sheshbazzar to return and rebuild temple

536~535 BC 70 years of desolation ends... (Daniel 9:2)

536-535 BC: almost 3 years after Cyrus gave decree, the foundation of the new temple was complete (Ezra 3:10-11)

(2) 458 BC – second group of exiles return under Ezra

70 weeks of years begins...

(3) 445 BC--"command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem" given to Nehemiah by Artaxerxes: "And it came to pass in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes... [the temple had been rebuilt but the city and walls were still in ruins]" (Nehemiah 2:1)

--"**seven weeks and sixty-two weeks...**"

-- 7 weeks of years + 62 weeks of years = 69 weeks of years = 69 x 7 = 480 years

-- 1 prophetic year = 360 days

--480 years x 360 days = 173,880 days

--**March 14, 445 B.C. to April 6, 32 A.D. = 173,880 days** (adjusted for leap years)... According to many scholars April 6, 32 A.D. is the only day that Jesus Christ – "Messiah the Prince" – presented Himself as the King of Israel:

--Matthew 21:1-13: "Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, "Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them." 4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 5 "Tell the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'" 6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. 8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna to the Son of David! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' Hosanna in the highest!" 10 And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, "Who is this?" 11 So the multitudes said, "This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee."

--the prophecy brought to Daniel by the angel Gabriel took Daniel straight to the heart of God's plan...

--the great event to look forward to in the future wasn't the restoration of animal sacrifices in the temple, but Jesus offering Himself as a sacrifice in "the Most Holy Place" in heaven (Hebrews 9:12)

--Hebrews 9:11-14: "But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. 12 Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. 13 For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, 14 how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"

--Hebrews 9:23-28; "For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; 25 not that He should offer Himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another — 26 He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. 27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, 28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

--before the next King of Israel will establish His throne in Jerusalem, He will first establish His throne in the hearts of mankind (and solve the root of the problem)

--Romans 8:14: For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

--before the physical Kingdom of Israel would be reestablished, the spiritual Kingdom would first be established

--Rom 14:16-17: "for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

--Luke 17:20-21: "Now when He was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, He answered them and said, "The kingdom of God does not come with observation; 21 nor will they say, 'See here!' or 'See there!' For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."

--John 4:23-24: Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well, "But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

--In the Old Testament terminology of Daniel 9:24...

9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city,
To finish the transgression,

-eradication of sin

To make an end of sins,

--that is, to make an end of *sin offerings*

To make reconciliation for iniquity,

--the final reconciliation through Christ (Romans 5:10)

To bring in everlasting righteousness,

--the everlasting righteousness of Christ credited to our account (Romans 1:16, Psalm 119:142, Romans 4:4)

To seal up vision and prophecy,

--to *finish or complete* all prophecy

And to anoint the Most Holy."

--not the consecration of the new temple, but the consecration of Jesus Christ, the Messiah (the "anointed one"), who entered "the Most Holy Place" (Hebrews 9:12) in heaven and made atonement for our sins