

DANIEL 9

SEVENTY SEVENS

BIBLE PROPHECY CLASS

FALL 2023

DANIEL 9

- One of the most amazing chapters in the Bible
- One of the most amazing prayers in the Bible (v4-19)
- One of the most amazing prophecies in the Bible (v24-27)

SETTING THE STAGE

- Daniel 1-7:
 - Establishes God's sovereign rule over the Gentiles
 - People
 - Nations
 - Rulers
 - Laws

SETTING THE STAGE

- Daniel 1-7:
 - Reveals four Gentile world empires:
 - Babylon
 - Medo-Persia
 - Greece
 - Rome

SETTING THE STAGE

- Daniel 8:
 - Describes the near-term future for Israel
 - The ram: Medo-Persia
 - The goat: Greece

SETTING THE STAGE

- Daniel 9:
 - Two Parts
 - Daniel's prayer
 - The prophecy
 - Describes the distant future for Israel

SETTING THE STAGE

Daniel, the man:

Integrity

Holiness

Worship

Faith

Uncompromising character

Virtue

Humility

Consistency

Obedience

Unselfishness

Trustworthiness

Persistence

SETTING THE STAGE

- What about Daniel himself?
 - In his 80's
 - In the captivity of Babylon for over 65 years
 - He was doing some reading...

DANIEL 9:1-2 (ESV)

1 In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, who was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans-- 2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the number of years that, according to the word of the LORD to Jeremiah the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, seventy years.

WHERE IN JEREMIAH?

Jeremiah 25:8-11: 8 "Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts: **Because you have not obeyed my words,** 9 behold, I will send for all the tribes of the north, declares the LORD, and for Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and I will bring them against this land and its inhabitants, and against all these surrounding nations. I will devote them to destruction, and make them a horror, a hissing, and an everlasting desolation. 10 Moreover, I will banish from them the voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the grinding of the millstones and the light of the lamp. 11 This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon **seventy years.**

WHERE IN JEREMIAH?

Jeremiah 29: 10-13: 10 "For thus says the LORD: When **seventy years** are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. 11 For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

DANIEL 9:3 (ESV)

3 Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

KEY ELEMENTS OF DANIEL'S PRAYER

v3 Then I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer and pleas for mercy with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.

- Driven by the Word of God – what he read in Jeremiah
- Resolute – “turned my face”
- Earnest – “pleas for mercy”
- Humble – “with fasting and sackcloth and ashes”

DANIEL 9:4 (ESV)

4 I prayed to the LORD my God and made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments,

KEY ELEMENTS OF DANIEL'S PRAYER

V4b: "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps covenant and steadfast love with **those who love him and keep his commandments,**"

- Acknowledges God's position
- Acknowledges the Mosaic covenant – God's part

ELEMENTS OF THE MOSAIC COVENANT

- God's Part:
 - Give the Law
 - Bless the Nation
 - Set Apart as Special
- Israel's Part:
 - Obey

ELEMENTS OF THE MOSAIC COVENANT

- If Israel is Obedient:
 - Blessings
- If Israel is Disobedient:
 - Curses

KEY ELEMENTS OF DANIEL'S PRAYER

- At this point, Daniel is driven to confession
 - A natural outflow of facing God
 - Greater maturity leads to greater awareness of sin
 - Paul: “chief among sinners...”
- Identified with God's people
 - Note the inclusive nature of the plurals used

DANIEL 9:5-7 (ESV)

5 **we** have sinned and done wrong and acted wickedly and rebelled, turning aside from your commandments and rules. 6 **We** have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to **our** kings, **our** princes, and **our** fathers, and to **all the people of the land**. 7 To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to **us** open shame, as at this day, to the **men** of Judah, to the **inhabitants** of Jerusalem, and to **all Israel**, those who are near and those who are far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery that they have committed against you.

DANIEL 9:8-11 (ESV)

8 To **us**, O LORD, belongs open shame, to **our** kings, to **our** princes, and to **our** fathers, because **we** have sinned against you. 9 To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for **we** have rebelled against him 10 and have not obeyed the voice of the LORD our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. 11 **All Israel** has transgressed your law and turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. And the curse and oath that are written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon **us**, because **we** have sinned against him.



DANIEL 9:12-14 (ESV)

12 He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against **us** and against **our rulers** who ruled us, by bringing upon **us** a great calamity. For under the whole heaven there has not been done anything like what has been done against Jerusalem. 13 **As it is written in the Law of Moses**, all this calamity has come upon **us**; yet **we** have not entreated the favor of the LORD our God, turning from our iniquities and gaining insight by your truth. 14 Therefore the LORD has kept ready the calamity and has brought it upon **us**, for the LORD our God is righteous in all the works that he has done, and **we** have not obeyed his voice.

DANIEL 9:15-17 (ESV)

15 And now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and have made a name for yourself, as at this day, **we** have sinned, **we** have done wickedly. 16 "O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger and your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and your people have become a byword among all who are around us. 17 Now therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his pleas for mercy, and for your own sake, O Lord, make your face to shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate.



KEY ELEMENTS OF DANIEL'S PRAYER

- Begin to see a shift in v15
 - Based on God's character and past actions v15
 - Focused on God's glory v16
 - Desiring God's glory be magnified v17
 - A mark of a mature believer's prayer

DANIEL 9:18-19 (ESV)

18 O my God, incline your ear and hear. Open your eyes and see our desolations, and the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy.

19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention and act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city and your people are called by your name."



KEY ELEMENTS OF DANIEL'S PRAYER

- Concludes with pleas for mercy
 - God is righteous and merciful
 - We don't deserve it
- So much emotion, yearning for Daniel's people!
- Is this how we pray?

DANIEL 9:20-21 (ESV)

20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my plea before the LORD my God for the holy hill of my God, 21 while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first, came to me in swift flight at the time of the evening sacrifice.

THE ANGEL GABRIEL

V21a: “the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the first”

- When was this “at first”?
 - Daniel 8:16 And I heard a man's voice between the banks of the Ulai, and it called, "Gabriel, make this man understand the vision."

DANIEL 9:22-23 (ESV)

22 He made me understand, speaking with me and saying, "O Daniel, I have now come out to give you insight and understanding. 23 At the beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, and I have come to tell it to you, for you are greatly loved. Therefore consider the word and understand the vision.

DANIEL 9:24 (ESV)

24 "Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

“Seventy weeks”

- A better translation: seventy sevens

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

“your people and your holy city”

- Talking to Daniel
 - Who are “your people”? Israel!
 - Where is “your holy city”? Jerusalem!
- This prophecy is for and about Israel (not the church)

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

- The purposes brought about after the seventy sevens:
 - to finish the transgression
 - to put an end to sin
 - to atone for iniquity
 - to bring in everlasting righteousness
 - to seal both vision and prophet
 - to anoint a most holy place

DANIEL 9:25 (ESV)

25 Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

“going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem”

- King Artaxerxes decree to Nehemiah
- March 14, 445 BC

“there shall be seven weeks”

- It took 49 years to rebuild Jerusalem

DANIEL 9:25 (ESV)

26 And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

“And after the sixty-two weeks”

- 7 weeks to rebuild Jerusalem + 62 weeks = 69 weeks
 - That's 483 years after the decree
- Sir Robert Anderson's calculation:
 - March 14, 445 BC + 483 years = April 6, AD 32
 - Palm Sunday!!!!!!
 - “an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing”

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

“And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.”

- Who is the prince who is to come?
 - The Anti-Christ
- Who are the people of that prince?
 - The Romans

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

“Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war.”

- Titus came in the Spring of AD70 with 80,000 troops
- Laid siege to Jerusalem until August, overtook the Temple
- Crucified all who escaped
- Over the next 3 months, hauled out 115,800 corpses
- All survivors sold as slaves

DANIEL 9:27 (ESV)

27 And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

“And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week,”

- Who is “he”?
 - “The prince who is to come” from v26; the Anti-Christ
- Makes a covenant for one week = 7 years
 - The tribulation

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

Wait a minute... what about the gap?

- 49 years to rebuild Jerusalem
- 434 years more until the Messiah
- A GAP – the church age
- 7 years of tribulation

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

Do other prophecies have gaps?

- Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- Jumps from baby Jesus to the Millennial Kingdom!

DANIEL 9:27 (ESV)

27 And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

“for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering”

- After 3-1/2 years, the Anti-Christ breaks the treaty, putting an end to the sacrifices and offerings of the Israeli people.

“on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate”

- The great tribulation of Revelation 6-19

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

“until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator.”

- Christ’s second coming
- A swift end to the rebellion
- The nation of Israel brought to repentance and restoration
- Millennial Kingdom instituted

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

- Remember Daniel's prayer was for God's glory to be shown, for His mercy to be poured out, and for Israel to be reconciled back to God
- This is the outcome of the prophecy!

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE PROPHECY

- Remember, this prophecy is for and about Israel
- Believers alive at the time will be raptured before the tribulation
- I Thessalonians 5:9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ

DANIEL 9: SEVENTY SEVENS

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