



### Daniel 9:24-27

#### The Desolation that Followed the Rejection of Christ

24 " 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."

In all of life, one of the most heart-wrenching experiences you can go through is to see a disaster approaching and to warn them about it, and then watch as the warning is disregarded and the disaster comes to pass. Any parent has seen it happen a million times, ***“you keep fooling with that, you are going to get hurt, you eat that now, you won’t want your dinner, etc.”*** and still you end up in the emergency room at 1:00 AM dealing with the consequences of something you warned them would eventually happen. If the disaster you were warning of happened immediately, then perhaps they might take more notice, but the fact that they seldom fall over and hit their head the moment they tip their chairs back tends to confirm their opinion that your fears were groundless.

This also happens to Pastors all the time, you say to the person ***“you are going to regret your decision to marry an unbeliever, or yeah going to that church may be easier and more comfortable, but ultimately your family is going to get assimilated by the world”*** but because the groom doesn’t run off with the bridesmaid at the reception, and your children don’t become card-carrying atheists in the fourth grade, the assumption its all hoey. Captain Smith of the Titanic was warned there were large icebergs ahead, but what are the chances of hitting an iceberg in this big ocean? Full-Speed Ahead! If you have any compassion at all, watching the wrong decision being made and knowing what will happen is an awful experience.

I can only imagine therefore the anguish that Christ, who is the most compassionate of all, must have gone through in knowing that the Jewish people would by-and-large reject Him as their Messiah and what the consequences would be. We get a hint of that anguish in Matthew 23:37-39. This comes of course during the final week before the crucifixion, after he had pronounced that litany of terrible woes on the Pharisees who were now working feverishly to destroy Him. (“Woe to you scribes and pharisees, hypocrites”).

***Matt. 23:37 " 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!' "***

Jesus laments because he sees the terrible wrath and judgment, in this world and then next, that their rejection is going to bring down on their heads. That is why one chapter later Jesus says to the disciples, don't be too impressed by this city or the temple, because the time is coming when one of those stones won't be left standing on another. This house they are so proud of, will be left utterly desolated. That is why as He is going to be crucified He says to the women of Jerusalem, ***don't weep for me, weep for yourselves***. For that generation it was too late, he had come offering grace and salvation, they had rejected that grace, and now they will not see his face again until the day of judgment, when every knee will bow and even the damned will confess that ***yes, Jesus Christ is Lord***.

His desire, was to gather them under his wings like a mother hen does her chicks when there is danger, and incidently kids, the mother hen does that so that if there is anything bad about to happen only she will be harmed, she puts her own body between the danger – say a thunderstorm or a predator – and her chicks. So too, Christ desired to interpose himself between the Jews and the judgment to come, but in their hardened state, they refused.

Daniel too was given a vision in which the consequences of the rejection of the Messiah, in particular in the desolation of the city of Jerusalem were spelled out. Long before it happened, Daniel was given a vision like unto that of Moses, taken to the top of the mountain and able to see the promised land that Israel was to inherit. Daniel hundreds of years before they happened was shown what lay in the future of the city he had been praying for.

We've already looked a verse 24 of that vision and seen how it was a synopsis of the whole period but lets look now briefly at verses 25-27 of that vision to see what events they foretold. Now as I do that, I will be returning to the interpretation of these verses that prevailed in the church for about 1800 years till the rise of Dispensationalism in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Now I should warn in advance, that verses 25-27 of this prophecy were described by J.A. Montgomery as the "Dismal Swamp of OT interpretation" made up of a "trackless wilderness of assumptions and theories" that seek to produce a chronology that exactly fits the history of redemption. I understand what he means very well. I listened just the other day online to one pastor attempt to give a neat chronology of these verses over a two hour period. As he flew from chapter to chapter and year to year, gradually my eyes began to glaze over and I utterly lost track of where he was going and where we had already been. I don't know if you will be happy to hear this, but I am not going to do the same thing. I'm just going to tell you what I think the verses mean, and give you a broad outline of the chronology. I would ask that you be patient as you already know that numbers and I don't get along.

**Verse 25** – Divides the First 69 Sevens. One Period of 7 weeks of Years (49 years) and another period of 62 Weeks of Years (434 years)

**Verses 26-27** – Covers the Events of the Final "Week" – Verse 27 goes into more detail about what is discussed in verse 26.

Now if you are wondering about why the years are organized into weeks, it is because the 7 day week is so central to the history of redemption. God created in 7 days, the people had been brought into an exile lasting 70 years largely because they had not kept the 7<sup>th</sup> day, the Sabbath holy.

1) Verse 25 - Two periods of Time:

a) (7 weeks of 7 years – 49 years) – Until the Street and Wall are rebuilt – Restoration of Jerusalem under Ezra and Nehemiah.

Artaxerxes gave the command in 445 BC and then within 49 Years the city was rebuilt under Ezra and then Nehemiah. Those of you familiar with those books know of the difficulty the people encountered in rebuilding, at one point construction could only progress with the men working with one hand and holding weapons of war to repel attackers in the other. Certainly troublesome times. The end of this “first week” also corresponds to the time when Old Testament Revelation came to an end (400 BC) and you have the beginning to the intertestamental period (the “400 years of silence”)

b) (62 weeks of X 7 years – 433) – Until the Coming of Messiah the Prince. 433 Years after this, puts it at around AD 30 or the beginning of Christ’s public ministry.

2) Verses 26 & 27 – we read that after the 62 weeks in the beginning of the last week – remember we had 7 weeks, then 62 weeks, that’s 69 weeks, and now we are in week 70. Jesus will be cut off, that word “cut off” or put to death. But note here, it is not for His own sins He shall die for He had none, Jesus will die for the sins of the many. He will lay down His life for all the Sheep that the Father has given to Him -

***Is 53:8 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.***

***7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.***

***8 He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken.***

***9 And they made His grave with the wicked -- But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.***

In the middle of the final week Christ dies for his people and thus brings an end forever to the ceremonial offerings, because they were shadows pointing forward to Jesus’ once for all sacrifice.

***Heb. 10:10 By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.***

***11 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins.***

***12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.***

***14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.***

In doing this Jesus *Confirms the Covenant*, performs what is necessary for the covenant of grace to be efficacious - ***Matt. 26:28 "For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.***

Now this is important, once Jesus had done that, there was no need any longer for the sacrifices of the Temple, and to go on doing them and trusting in their efficacy to remove sins, was to deny what they had been pointing forward to. What people needed now, was not to trust in the sacrifices of the Temple, but to trust in the once for all sacrifice of the Messiah. To believe in Jesus Christ. The sacrifices of the temple, actually became an abomination once Christ's work was completed, and God was not going to allow to continue. Even then the longsuffering of God was manifested in that his judgement, the judgment Jesus warned of in his lamentation over Jerusalem DIDN'T come until a little under 40 years later. But it did come. Look at verse 26 again "the people of the prince who is to come" – that people were the Romans, and the prince was Caesar. "Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood" in 66 AD the Jewish people got sick of waiting for the political Messiah they thought they needed to come and free them from the Roman yoke. They started a rebellion that was to last 4 years and leave the entire land desolate. City after city throughout the war was utterly destroyed. In the end, after a terrible siege and muddled defense, the walls of Jerusalem would be breached by Titus the son of Caesar Vespasian, the roman banners raised over the city and the temple, and then the whole of the city would be razed to the ground. The temple would be destroyed, and never resume. Just as Daniel had foreseen, Jerusalem was destroyed with a flood, but not a flood of water.

***"But when they went in numbers into the lanes of the city, with their swords drawn, they slew those whom they overtook, without mercy, and set fire to the houses wither the Jews were fled, and burnt every soul in them, and laid waste a great many of the rest ... they ran every one through whom they met with, and obstructed the very lanes with their dead bodies, and made the whole city run down with blood, to such a degree indeed that the fire of many of the houses was quenched with these men's blood."* – Josephus**

Even Titus the Roman general recognized that the fall of Jerusalem was by the hand of God -

***"Now, when Titus was come into this [upper] city, he admired not only some other places of strength in it, but particularly those strong towers which the tyrants, in their mad conduct, had relinquished; for when he saw their solid altitude, and the largeness of their several stones. and the exactness of their joints, as also how great was their breadth, and how extensive their length, he expressed himself after the manner following:- "We have certainly had God for our assistant in this war, and it was no other than God who ejected the Jews out of these fortifications; for what could the hands of men, or any machines, do towards overthrowing these towers!"*" – Josephus**

That is the end of the 70<sup>th</sup> week. The consummation of all that was predicted. Their house was made desolate just as Christ had warned, and Daniel had foretold. They ignored the warnings of the wrath to come, and were not willing to turn and receive salvation and blessing.

Application: But now what of you? I stand here week after week, but what am I really doing? I am warning of the wrath to come, I tell you to flee from it while it is still day. I beg you again and again to flee to Christ while there is yet time, but I fear there are some who week after week are not willing. Brothers and Sisters, the age of grace is wonderful, and the harvest that comes in it as people enter the kingdom is amazing to watch. But there is time coming when that age of grace shall end, just as it did for the people of God before the exile. ***Jer. 8:20 "The harvest is past, The summer is ended, And we are not saved!"*** Will you not be saved? Will you not go to the one who is all Compassion? Will you not go to Jesus?

As Jesus himself warned in His lamentation. There are only two ways, to be eternally related to Him. If you will not have Jesus as your Savior, then you will have Him as your Judge.