

## Daniel 9:20-27

### "From Prayer To Prophecy"

Today we transition from the spectacular prayer, to the spectacular prophecy of Daniel Ch 9. Daniel, (we have discovered) was a man of the Word. Yes, he was a prophet, but he was still a pupil, a seer yet a student of God's Word.

Having honored God his whole life & now @ 80+ yrs of age he still found it necessary to delve *into* the Word & was gaining fresh insight *out of* the Word. & While spending time reading through the book of Jeremiah he came across a particular prophecy that *he* had penned that gave him the revelation & realization that the time of Judah's captivity in Babylon was about up... It was there that he discovered that God had determined the days of Judah's captivity to be 70 yrs.

The short story is that God had set Israel's pattern of life around the # 7. We tend to think in 10's (or decades). They were set around 7. God created the heavens & the earth in 6 days, on the 7<sup>th</sup> He rested. They were to work 6 days, on the 7<sup>th</sup> they were to rest. They were to work the land 6 yrs, on the 7<sup>th</sup> they were to give it a rest, let it lie fallow. **They were even given a "Sabbath of Sabbaths", after 49 yrs, (or 7, 7 yr periods) the 50<sup>th</sup> yr was known as the "Year of Jubilee", (you can read of it in Lev 25). But after 490 yrs (or 70, 7 yr periods) of being in the Promised Land, Israel never 1 time honored the Sabbath year, giving the land the rest that God had instructed them to.**

So when Judah was carried away captive into Babylon, they were taken due to sin & rebellion against God, they had taken to idolatry, they had gone after other "gods" of wood & stone. But the length of their captivity was tied to the sin of not honoring God's word in allowing the land to rest. They owed the land 70 sabbath yrs & God was giving the land it's rest. So; what was happening to Israel was connected to 70, 7 yr units of time. Keep that in mind as we make our way forward.

Because Daniel is about to be introduced to *another* set of 70, 7 yr units of time that pertain specifically to the nation of Israel. A 490 yr timetable broke down into 70, 7 yr units of time that will end in the *consummation* of human history as we know it & bring in the *realization* of everlasting righteousness, Jesus Himself ruling/reigning over all the earth.

### Vs 20-21

Can we just pause for a moment & acknowledge the fact that this is quite an amazing answer to prayer & we haven't even heard what the answer is yet? 😊

I don't know about you but my prayers have never been interrupted (in dramatic fashion) by an angel sent directly from God to give me the answer! Yet that's exactly what happened to Daniel!

There he is, speaking, praying, confessing both *his sin* & the sin of *his people* Israel. Btw, did you know that the bible doesn't record any sin that Daniel ever committed? Isn't that remarkable? You think of Ab, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, all these great men in the word of God & we have record of sin in every-one of them (no small sin, I might add). Yet when it comes to Daniel, there's nothing negative ever recorded of him... I'm not sure if there's anyone else in the bible (other than Jesus) that falls in that category; none that I'm aware of... But I point that out because the bible declares unapologetically & in no uncertain terms, "...*all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*"<sup>1</sup> Yet, we don't know of Daniel's sin. However, *Daniel* knew of his sin & we see that right here.

Here, he freely & transparently acknowledges his sin. Even after walking w/God all these yrs there was still sin in his life. Family, it's not until we see Jesus that we'll be like Jesus. Until then we have this sin nature we have to wrestle w/& crucify which means that we will have sin to confess. You do realize that 1<sup>st</sup> Jn 1:9 was written to believers, yes? As a matter of fact it's tucked right between 2 other important truths to understand. "*If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.*"<sup>2</sup> It's true, *positionally* you're perfect in Christ, He's both cleansed you & robed you in His Personal righteousness, but *practically* you will sin until you see Him, *then* you will be like Him. Daniel was confessing his sin to God (something we do well to do regularly).

But he had on his heart *his people* (the Jews) & *his homeland* (Jerusalem, the holy mountain). He longed to see the temple/city rebuilt & the people restored. When would they be delivered, not only from Babylon but from rebellion against God? So he's praying, it's about 3-4 o'clock in the afternoon. We know that because he tells us it was at the time of the evening sacrifice.

Now there was no morning & evening sacrifice in Babylon, but he remembers the goings on in his city as a child & evidently, he set part of his prayer life around those formal times of worship.

<sup>1</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Ro 3:23]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>2</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [1 Jn 1:8-10]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Again, being a man of the word it's plausible that he ascribed to the heart behind the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vs of the 141<sup>st</sup> psalm, *"Let my prayer be set before You as incense, The lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."*<sup>3</sup>

Be that as it may, we discover that while Daniel was *still speaking*, God dispatched Gabriel (the angel) to fly swiftly to him that he might give to him the answer to his prayer... If you recall part of Daniel's prayer back in Vs 19 was, "O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen & act! *Do not delay* for Your own sake, my God..." What we're seeing here is that God definitely didn't delay in issuing forth an answer! As a matter of fact, he interrupted Daniel's prayer to give him the answer!

Guys, I've timed how long it takes to read this prayer. It's about 3 minutes. Now I don't know where heaven is geographically (if you will), but I'm gonna step out on a limb here & say that I don't think it's as far away as most may imagine (out there beyond the limits of the known universe or something). My suspicion is that it's very near, simply other dimensional. God isn't far from you, He's very near to you, He'll never leave nor forsake you...

& Here's the thing, He knows our needs. He can answer our prayers *immediately*. Jesus said, *"For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."*<sup>4</sup> & Sometimes in His grace He'll give you what you need before you *even ask*... Isaiah 65:24, *"It shall come to pass That before they call, I will answer; And while they are still speaking, I will hear."*<sup>5</sup> Why then are there times of delay? There could be many reasons, it could lie in the sovereignty of God's timing, it could be that we're not asking things according to His will, it could be that it's not an issue of getting God on *our* side, but God getting us on *His* side concerning the request... But this we know. God answers prayer & when it's right to do it, He'll answer immediately.

### Vs 22-23

Family, don't miss what's happening here. Daniel was spending time in prayer *before* God, communing *with* God, therefore he received understanding *from* God. He was given "skill to understand".

I'm just gonna tell you, this is something that I pray for on a regular basis. That God would open my understanding that I might comprehend His word. Remember when Paul prayed for the Eph that the "eyes of their understanding" might be enlightened.

<sup>3</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Ps 141:2]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>4</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Mt 6:8]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>5</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Is 65:24]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

We read in Luke 24 where Jesus did just that for His disciples prior to His ascension. He “opened their understanding” He gave them skill to understand/comprehend the Scriptures. If we want understanding of the scripture *from* Jesus, it stands to reason (doesn’t it) that we need to spend time *with* Jesus.

God’s word & prayer go together. Yes, read commentaries. Yes, research original language resources, but most importantly, pray *through* the word, seek the Lord for understanding *of* the word.

Daniel desired understanding, God dispatched Gabriel to give it to him. & Let me point out the brevity of this prayer again, about 3 minutes (though he may’ve prayed longer). But the point is that the strength of prayer isn’t in the length of prayer. Set aside a few minutes, come before the throne of God, seek His heart, make confession, intercede in prayer.

Again, let’s remember that Daniel had just considered a set of “7’s” upon the nation of Israel (it’s why they were in Babylon 70 yrs). & Now it’s as if God (through Gabriel) sent a message to Daniel saying, “You think the insight of *that* set of 7’s was amazing, I’m going to reveal to you *another* set of 7’s that will blow your mind...”

Vs 24a

3 things to realize here. #1 There are 70 units of time in view. #1 It applies specifically to the Jews (your people) & also #3 To Jerusalem (your holy city).

As to the “70 weeks”, understand that the literal words are “70-7’s”. It doesn’t say weeks, days, yrs or anything like that. It says, “Seventy, sevens are determined”, it’s virtually, categorically agreed upon that what’s in view is 70, 7yr units of time. **For more than one reason. #1 Daniel was just reading & praying through the Jeremiah passage dealing w/the 70 yrs of captivity, tied to the 490 yrs (or 70, 7 yr periods) of disobedience. That’s the context that Gabriel is coming to him in. #2 If days were intended, we’d expect him to have added that detail because that’s exactly what he did in the next Ch in Vs 2-3.** It’s translated “3 weeks” in those Vs, but a more literal rendering is “Three 7’s of days”. Add to that how the prophecy unfolded historically & it’s clear. God was telling Daniel that His prophetic timetable (really for the world) revolves around His plans for the Jewish people & the place of Jerusalem.

The Gentiles aren’t really in view in this prophetic utterance although they’re included by the sheer nature of the fact that what’s in view will affect the whole world.

Ok. 70- 7yr chunks of time (490 yrs) have been “determined” or “cut out” “marked out” for the Jews & Jerusalem in which God is going to get some things done. What things?

Vs 24b

Wow... 6 things that will essentially change everything & God is going to do all this by the time these 490 yrs run their course. He’s going to #1 Finish the transgression... This is where I was saying that it was directed specifically toward the Jews but by the nature of what it is affects & applies to humanity in general.

When you talk about “finishing” something, it’s bringing it to an end, correct? What is “transgression”? It’s willful rebellion, isn’t it? I can “sin” unknowingly, (I can miss the mark, not do what’s right, even if I didn’t intend to). But if I transgress, I *knew* it was wrong, I just didn’t care, I did it anyway.

So God is saying He’s going to “finish” that, bring an end to the transgression of Israel. But in order for that to happen there will have to be an entirely new order established upon the earth, am I wrong? In order for there to be no more rebellion against God, it’s not going to happen in Israel only, all of mankind will be subject to the righteous rule of J.C., God will end the rebellion of man.

He will #2 “Make an end of sins”. Again, taking this at face value, God’s not saying He’ll merely bring an end to the *guilt* of sin, but bring an end to sin itself! The word “end” means “to seal up”, same word used in #5 “to seal up” or “bring to an end” vision & prophecy. Guys, this looks to a new world order, a redeemed earth upon which mankind will dwell.

#3 “To make reconciliation for iniquity”. In order for all the other things to happen, this has to happen 1<sup>st</sup>. God’s not finishing transgression or bringing an end to sin w/out 1<sup>st</sup> reconciling man’s iniquity to His justice & holiness. This points plainly to the cross of J.C. The Lamb of God, shedding His blood for the sins of the world. The bible teaches (2 Cor 5) that in Christ, God was “reconciling” the world to Himself. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

#4 “To bring in everlasting righteousness”. I may sound like a broken record here, but at face value this points to a new order of society.

#5 “To seal up vision & prophecy” the culmination of prophetic utterance is resolved in Christ. When Jesus is ruling & reigning there will be no more need, prophecy fulfilled, it’s served its purpose.

#6 “& To anoint the Most holy.” More than likely this is a reference to the Most holy *place*.

A reference to the temple from which Jesus will rule & reign during His millennial kingdom. However, if it points to the Most Holy Person, it's a reference to Jesus taking His place upon His throne to rule over all the earth. Either way you want to see it, I'm good w/it.

Taken at its most literal, plain reading. We can only say that 1 of these things has taken place (maybe 2 or so depending on how you interpret them). We know that reconciliation for iniquity has been accomplished by the cross of J.C.

Beyond that, we await this new age to be ushered in... So the question that confronts us is, "When does this 490 yrs fit into the spectrum of human history?" Because Gabriel just announced some miraculous, amazing events that God will accomplish w/in this period of 70-7yr periods, yes!?! Israel's sins will be forgiven, the city of Jerusalem will be restored, the temple will be rebuilt (if you're to anoint the most holy place, there needs to be one), & all this will happen through the atoning death of J.C. upon the cross... So how do these 490 yrs play out?

**Vs 25**

Wait right there... Did he just say what we thought he said? Did he just tell us *exactly* when the Messiah would present Himself to Israel? Yeah, you read that right. "From the going forth of the command to restore & build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there shall be 7 weeks (49 yrs) & 62 weeks (434 yrs) or a total of 483 yrs.

Family, let's keep this as simple as we can. Let's envision God w/a divine stop watch in heaven & it's loaded up w/490 yrs marked out specifically for the nation of Israel. God says, "I'm going to accomplish everything I just said I'm going to do, & you can start the clock winding down the moment the command takes place to restore & build (not the temple as Cyrus & Darius gave orders) *Jerusalem*, the street will be built & it's wall, even in troublesome times." So we can know *exactly* when the clock started.

Artaxerxes gave the decree to Nehemiah to return to rebuild the city & it's walls on March 14<sup>th</sup> 445 B.C. & what was it like during that time? Troublesome. So much so in fact we read that they build the walls w/a sword in one hand & a trowel in the other. & They built the walls in 52 days for the people had a mind to work. However, the restoration of the entire city would take much longer. That's why we have 7, 7's dedicated to this (49 yrs).

Once that was finished, the time is still ticking 434 more years until the appearance of the Messiah. Now; for us, it's better to look at days rather than years.

Why? Because we observe 365 ¼ day yrs. Daniel observed a 360 yr. 2 different calendar systems. The total amount of days from the going forth of the command until the appearance of the Messiah to Jerusalem would be 173,880 days, which brings us to the date of Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 32 A.D.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Jesus had a habit of rejecting the praise of man & refusing to be acknowledged as a King. But there was 1 day (out of His entire earthly ministry) that He not only received the praises of the multitudes, but He actually facilitated it, welcomed it & presented Himself openly as Israel's coming King... We refer to it as the "Triumphal Entry."

It was on that day that Jesus deliberately arranged the event to present Himself as Messiah. It was that day that He told His disciples to go into the village opposite of them & they'd find a donkey's colt. They were to bring Him that colt & He rode into Jerusalem on that colt fulfilling yet another prophecy, *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."*<sup>6</sup> & It was that same day that Jesus wept over the city saying, *"If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."*<sup>7</sup> "This your day"? Which day? The day that Daniel had prophesied of that we're reading right now in which Messiah the Prince would come to Jerusalem... They missed it, couldn't see it, didn't know it, & they rejected J.C. (Just as Daniel prophesied would take place, notice).

**Vs 26**

Messiah would be "cut off", officially rejected & executed. "But not for Himself." Jesus wasn't crucified for any sin of His own, He was w/out sin. He was wounded for *our* transgressions, bruised for *our* iniquities, the chastisement for our peace was placed upon Him & by *His* stripes *we* are healed. Beautiful application.

However a more literal interpretation is that He was cut off & All of that is true, but a more literal rendering of the text here is "cut off receiving nothing for Himself" speaking to the fact that He won't receive the kingdom that is rightfully His at this time, He'll receive nothing (He came to his own, his own did not receive Him)

& The people of the prince who is to come... who's the prince who is to come? Not J.C. (Messiah the Prince), we're seeing the A.C.

<sup>6</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Zec 9:9]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

<sup>7</sup> *The New King James Version*. (1982). [Lk 19:42]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.

Jesus said, *"I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive."*<sup>8</sup> Daniel says that the people he will arise out of (in the future) will be from the same people who destroy the city. Rome came in & destroyed the city (not 1 stone of the temple left upon another just as Jesus said) in 70 A.D.

We're learning that the A.C. will ultimately come out of Europe to lead the 10 nation confederation that Daniel has already discussed.

Here's what you need to understand, as soon as J.C. was "cut off", the prophetic time clock was stopped (as it pertains to the nation of Israel). 69 of the 70 were completed. Jesus said that the kingdom of God would be taken from Israel & given to another nation who would bring forth the fruit of it (Matt 6:43). (He was speaking of the church).

Nowhere in this prophecy does it state that all 490 yrs will run consecutively. There is still 1, 7 yr unit of time in which God will finish His dealings w/Israel & bring to pass all that He has said. We refer to it as "The Great Tribulation" or as Jeremiah 30 calls it, "The time of Jacob's trouble". You can read of it in Rev 6-19. Daniel gives us the short of it here in Vs 27.

### Vs 27

So this "prince who is to come" will ultimately bring peace to the middle east. He will confirm a covenant or peace treaty w/the nation of Israel which will allow them to begin the sacrificial system once again in a rebuilt temple. The treaty will encompass a period of??? 7 yrs (the final 7 yr unit of time for this prophecy begins at the signing of said treaty). But in the middle of that week (3 ½ yrs into it) there will be an abomination (a horrific idolatrous event) that brings desolation. Paul speaks of this man entering the temple, proclaiming himself to *be* God, demanding to be worshiped *as* God. & Then tremendous persecution will be poured out upon the Jews in measures the likes of which this world has never seen.

But there is a promised "consummation", a completion of it all. It's been determined. At the end of this 70<sup>th</sup> week, J.C. will return, put down the A.C. (casting him & his false prophet alive into the lake of fire), Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit & righteousness will rule the earth. Listen, heaven & earth will pass away, but God's word will never by no means pass away. Don't be deceived, every detail of this will come to pass & wise is the one ready to see Jesus face to face. Let's set our hearts to honor Him even now.

<sup>8</sup> [The New King James Version](#). (1982). [In 5:43]. Nashville: Thomas Nelson.



**Prayer Points:**

Lord Jesus we humble our hearts before You, & want to learn what it means to truly spend time in communion w/You, gaining insight into Your word, Your ways, Your heart that we might be more like You. We're grateful for Your love, Your faithfulness & that You were willing to lay down Your life that we might be reconciled to God through faith in You.

If you haven't turned from your sin & given your life to J.C. I want to invite you to do so even now. Today is the day of salvation, if you'll hear His voice, don't harden your heart. Open the door of your heart & surrender to Jesus today.