

Bonus Content Episode 24 - Daniel 9:24-27 (pt1)

You are listening to Reflection from Revelation episode 24 as we study what is known as the **70 weeks from Daniel 9:24-27**

Our study of Revelation has led us into covering the corresponding details found in **Daniel 9**.

- This is where God gives Daniel the prophet revelation about His coming: ADVENT.
- These verses not only include details on His first coming BUT also His second.

The prophecy of this chapter has been rightly called by scholars “the backbone of Biblical prophecy.”

- These 3 verses give an amazing prophetic view about King Jesus’ coming.
- These verses provided HOPE not only for Daniel (written while in captivity) but for all of us!
- They remind us that God will ultimately rule and reign and conquer sin and death!

As we cover the details of the 7-year tribulation period in Revelation it would be good to look at this text in Daniel and explain why we specifically think this period is where God is interacting with Israel in the last days.

- We saw in **Rev 14** that God continues to protect His people. (the 144,000 Israelites)

As we cover Revelation there are **many references in the book of Daniel** that give us details about the end of the age and these Revelation prophecies that we are studying.

CONTEXT of this passage (Daniel 9)

- Daniel was crying out to God in prayer and God was now giving Daniel revelation and encouragement.
- An angel was sent to Daniel telling him he was greatly loved and to bring him hope.
- The Israelites had been taken captive by the Babylonians and Daniel was struggling and asking God if He was done with the nation of Israel. Of course, the answer was NO!
- As Daniel is praying and seeking God, he receives this revelation about the Messiah. **(9:24-27)**
- God is comforting Daniel and giving Him a word specifically about His people and the Messiah.

Although this is specifically for Daniel’s comfort, we also can be comforted through this prophecy.

Dan 9:24-27 *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. 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. 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. 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.”*

In part 1 of our study we will focus on the first advent (coming of Jesus).

- It will prove accurate, clear, and encouraging as you will see what God has prophesied and completed in the first coming, He will do likewise in Christ’s second coming.

Daniel receives a specific word for His people and this prophecy is for the Jews and Daniel's people.

This is important to understand to be able to interpret this accurately as we will see.

v24 *“Seventy weeks are decreed **about your people and your holy city,**”*

- ‘Your people’ are the Israelites, the Jewish nation God had made a covenant with.
- ‘Your holy city’ is Jerusalem, the mecca or capital where God has worked through His people.
- God is saying that he is going to do a specific work with Israel once a decree has been made.
- These seventy weeks are focused upon Daniel's people (the Jews) and his holy city (Jerusalem).
- Talbot (commentator) calls the **seventy weeks** "God's calendar for Israel" in that it does not focus on the Gentiles or the church.

God tells Daniel that after a certain time (**70 weeks**) of working through Israel, He would finally rule and reign!

70 Weeks equals a time period of 490 Years.

- There is almost universal agreement among Bible scholars and commentators that this refers to **seventy sets of seven years**, or "weeks of years."
- In ancient Hebrew, **weeks simply refers to a unit of seven**. The Hebrew word here is often used to mean a unit of seven days, but it may also be used for a unit of seven years. This is like we say a decade is 10 years or dozen is 12.
- **An example of this usage is in Genesis 29:27-28** where this unit (shabuwa') is used for both "seven days" and "seven years"
- This is why some other translations say 70 'sevens' (NIV) OR (NLT) 'A period of seventy sets of seven.'

The 70 sevens are divided into three separate units: seven sevens, 62 sevens and one seven.

[Dan 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.*

- **7 sevens**: During the first time period (49 years) Jerusalem would be “*built again, with street and moat, even in troublous times.*”(v 25)
- **62 sevens**: The second block of time (62 sevens, a total of 434 years) immediately followed the first for a total of 69 sevens, or 483 years. It is at this point that we are then told what would be the ending point of these 69 sevens: “***unto Messiah the Prince.***” (V25 NKJV)
- **1 seven** : After the final seven years the Messiah would rule and reign completely. (pause or gap to this last seven to be discussed later in part 2 study)

What will be accomplished after the seventy sevens (490 years) are completed through the Jews?

A NEW WORLD!!!

v24 *“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.**”*

Notice the 70 weeks are separated into 2 parts of 69 sevens and one final week (1 seven year period).

“to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness”...

- After the 70 weeks, there will be a redeemed world and sin will be atoned for and we will live in everlasting righteousness.

“To seal up vision and prophecy”...

- This speaks of both the ending and fulfillment of prophecy, concluding the final stage of human history and culminating with the reign of the Son of God.

This is clearly talking the new heaven and new earth that will come after these last seven years. **Rev 21:4-5** *He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” And he who was seated on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.”*

This word to Daniel was to bring Daniel hope to look not just at the here and now BUT to look at God’s ultimate plan.

- God knew how His people suffered and wanted them to know He would establish His Kingdom!
- God knows our suffering and wants us to know that He will rule and make every wrong right!

Let’s now look at how the 70 sevens are broken down into different parts; The Messiah’s first coming and second coming:

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.*

- Here Gabriel reveals to Daniel the starting point for the seventy-week prophecy.
- God wanted a countdown for us to know when this prince would come so we can worship Him!

The question then comes...WHAT WAS DECREED? When did this happen and has the Messiah come?

- There was a command to **restore and build Jerusalem** that began this specific time period.
- Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes gave decrees to Ezra to rebuild the temple, BUT **specifically the bible records Nehemiah rebuilding the city and the wall.**
 - Artaxerxes made a decree giving Nehemiah permission, safe passage and supplies to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the walls in March 5th 444 B.C. (month of Nisan-**Nehemiah 2:1-8**)
 - Nehemiah did this great work of rebuilding the wall in 52 days with tons of opposition. (**Neh 6:15**)

After the wall was built the city had to be restored and the temple completed which took more time. Can you guess how many years it took to restore the actual city? 49 years! 7 Sevens! Let’s look at the time frame:

V 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*

- The decree given by Artaxerxes gives us a **start date to this time frame** of when the 70 weeks will begin.

- This is important because now there is a time frame in human history when there is a decree issued that points to the time our Messiah will rule and reign.
- Gabriel's message to Daniel is simple and striking. 483 years (69 units of seven years) would pass from the time of the command recorded in **Nehemiah 2:1-8** until the appearance of Messiah the Prince.

A prince would come, A Savior, A great ruler! I love how God can get so specific!

"In our mind a Prince is a good step lower than a king. In the Hebrew vocabulary, "Prince" has more the idea of "strong, mighty ruler" than "son of a king and heir to the throne." David Guzik

- Messiah the Prince appears 69 weeks (7 plus 62), 483 years from the decree. (69 x 7 - remember a week refers to a unit of 7)
- This prophetic date until '*Messiah the prince*' (v25) all points **to the time of Jesus first advent!**
 - Some say it points to Jesus' birth though there really isn't a lot to support that.
 - Some say it was at His baptism. This is possible if one begins with the earlier decree of Artaxerxes for Ezra, and figures with our present measurement for years instead of the ancient measurement of years (360 days).

I believe it is a specific time when Jesus came riding in Jerusalem on a donkey and received worship (Palm Sunday) Mat 21:1-11; Mar 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-40; John 12:12-19

- When you do the math from the date the decree given in Nehemiah to 483 years, according to the Jewish calendar you get this historic day.(Palm Sunday)
- Robert Anderson's work in *The Coming Prince* follows this argument in great detail: (Walvoord) Anderson, using a 360-day year (which Israel used in Daniel's day), calculates 173,880 days from the decree to the triumphal entry, fulfilling the prophecy to the day. "It is customary for the Jews to have twelve months of 360 days each and then to insert a thirteenth month occasionally when necessary to correct the calendar."
- Taking Anderson's calculations as reliable, we see a remarkable fulfillment of prophecy. A Gentile king made a decree and 483 years later to the day, Jesus presented Himself as Messiah the Prince to Israel. This event is called **Palm Sunday (Triumphal entry)** where people came into the holy city of Jerusalem and cried out:
John 12:13 *So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, crying out, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, even the King of Israel!"*
 - Hosanna (Save Us, We pray) (Save Now)

I believe Jesus knew specifically about this date and received praise as King on that day on purpose.

- Jesus was always saying His time has not yet come, (**John 7:6-8**) yet He received praise on this day.(**Palm Sunday**)
- The shout of the throngs praising him on that day were in fulfillment of **Psalm 118**, (which is known as a Messianic Psalm) **Psalm 118:26** *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD! (Mat 21:9; Mar 11:9,10; Luke 19:38; John 12:13)*
- Jesus openly received praise as a King this day...why? I believe He claimed to be God and King to fulfill the law and the prophets perfectly!

"There was only **one occasion** in our Lord's earthly ministry on which He is depicted as **presenting Himself openly as Zion's King**, the so-called '**Triumphal Entry**' recorded in each one of the Gospels and fulfilling **Zechariah 9:9** and **Psalm 118:26**." (Newell)

- On that day, Jesus deliberately arranged the event to present Himself as the Messiah. (**Mark 11:1-10**)

- On that day, Jesus welcomed praise (**Luke 19:38-40**) instead of quieting the people. (**Luke 5:14** and **8:56**)
- On that day, Jesus made special reference to the importance of that day. (**Luke 19:41-42**)
- And on that day, **Jesus fulfilled the prophecy given to Daniel! He wanted us to know!**

God wanted us to know that Jesus was the Messiah, and He gave us so many different prophecies about his coming!

Daniel's prophecy not only reveals the year that the Messiah would come, but we're also told what would happen to the Messiah. Notice (v.26)

26 *And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be **cut off** and shall have nothing.* (NKJV Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself)

Now you would think all the Jews would have rejoiced and accepted Jesus, but they didn't and they actually rejected and killed Jesus!

- The Biblical term cut off is sometimes used to describe execution. (**Gen 9:11 & Ex 31:14**).
 - Cut off is a poignant description of Jesus' earthly life up to and including the cross.
- 1 Peter 3:18** *For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit.*
- 2 Cor 5:21** *For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

As clearly as Daniel could have stated it, he taught that 483 years after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem had been issued, (Neh 2) Messiah would be here on earth, and He would be rejected and 'cut off'.

Jesus came and fulfilled all the (many) prophecies about the Messiah. He was even cut off but not for Himself!

- Why would this happen? Why would God do this? Because God really does love us!
- He not only wanted Daniel to know this BUT us as well. Our God loves us and gives us HOPE and salvation!

And so the King Has Come!!!

- Jesus came specifically and accurately as this text in Daniel prophesied.
- This text prophecies perfectly the first coming of Jesus.

In our next episode we are going to look at the prophecy of the 70th week.

We will see how Jesus will return again, and we will look at why there is a "pause" in this time frame.

An additional handout in the notes for a visual is attached.

Why do this in 2 parts?

- This teaching is long and detailed, and I wanted you to understand and see how **some of this prophecy already has proven true.**
- **Just as it was accurate for Jesus' first return, it is accurate for his 2nd return as well!**

GOD will establish His New Kingdom and We will rule and reign in Heaven with Him for eternity.

"Daniel's Seventy Weeks (or Seventy Sevens)"

Daniel 9:20-23: 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:

