

THE SEVENTY SEVENS OF DANIEL NINE

Daniel 9:20-27

Intro: These last verses of Daniel nine deal with seventy weeks of years, thus seventy sevens or 490 years.

Jesus Christ our Lord referred to the last week of Daniel's prophecy in several passages of scripture. One of those passages is Matthew 24:15: "When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolations, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, whoso readeth, let him understand." This verse refers to the last half of the last week, a week of seven years, of the tribulation when the Anti-Christ will desecrate the altar of the tribulation temple. The words of our Lord concerning Daniel and the last half of the tribulation week of years are also recorded in Mark 13:14: "But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not..."

Daniel's prophecy is end time prophecy, prophecy for a time when: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars...;" a time when, "nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places" (Matthew 24:6-7).

I. Vss. 20-23, APPEARANCE OF THE ANGEL GABRIEL

- A. Vs. 20-21, While Daniel was praying, God was sending an answer by his Arch Angel Gabriel. Gabriel can mean: "the strong one of the strong God." The holy mountain spoken of in vs. 20 is Mount Moriah.
 - 1. Daniel is touched by Gabriel about the time of the evening oblation.
 - 2. As a youngster, Daniel had seen the smoke of the evening sacrifice rise from the temple site. This sacrifice, that of a whole perfect yearling lamb began at 3 p.m., was accompanied by the oblation, the meal, and the drink offering which prefigured the future sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ, the spotless Lamb, on the cross of Calvary (Hebrews 9:14). Three PM is when Christ died on the cross.
- B. Vs. 22, "To give thee skill and understanding", this is why Gabriel is sent to Daniel at this time. The angel Gabriel is going to equip the prophet to understand God's prophetic plan.
- C. Vs. 23. The angel says, "thou art greatly beloved." Daniel is known before the throne in heaven, personally. The prophet

has had a consistent prayer life from a youth.

II. Vs. 24, SEVENTY SEVENS REVEALED

- A. The last four verses of Daniel nine set forth one of the greatest and most important prophecies of the whole Bible. Here in verse 24 the entire prophecy is set before us.
 - 1. Vs. 25, Here have the first sixty-nine sevens set before us.
 - 2. Vs. 26, Those things that happen between the sixty-ninth and seventieth weeks are pictured.
 - 3. Vs. 27, The description of the of the last half of the seventieth week is given in detail.
- B. The prophecy that is set forth has nothing to do with the church, yet it has much instruction for us.
 - 1. “Thy people”- Daniel’s people the Jews. The seventy weeks deal specifically with Israel.
 - 2. “Upon thy holy city”-this, of course, is a reference to Jerusalem.
- C. “To finish the transgression, make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity.” The three key words here are: transgression, sins and iniquity.
 - 1. “To finish the transgression”- transgression has to do with revolt and rebellion. Remember, we are dealing with national Israel here. Israel from the start has been a rebellious child. The sin of Israel will not be totally removed until Christ returns to earth at the end of the tribulation to set up His millennial kingdom. For the individual, the blood of Christ shed on Calvary, His death, burial, and resurrection cleanse the believer.
 - 2. “To make an end of sins.” The word “sins” here deals with missing the mark. In reference to individuals, we think of Romans 3:23: “All have sinned and come short [missed the mark] of the glory of God.” Israel has missed the mark; they, as a nation, a nation that God set apart for Himself, has fallen far short of His plan and purpose for them. “To make an end of sins” means that they must be dealt with. Christ dealt with the elects sins when He paid the sin debt on the cross (2 Cor. 5:21). Israel’s sins will not be completely removed until the second advent

when Jesus comes to establish His earthly kingdom (Rom. 11:25-28).

3. "To make reconciliation for iniquity"- This has to do with man's natural bent toward sin, his crookedness. When the Holy Spirit is removed (2 Thess. 2:6-7) from the earth at the rapture, Israel will pay a terrible price for her iniquity, her bent toward evil. The Anti-Christ will, as so many have done through the centuries, single out Israel for persecution. Believers can be glad that they are reconciled to God by the blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son (Rom. 5:10).
- D. To bring in everlasting righteousness"- For the believer this righteousness is a fact as we have seen in 2 Cor. 5:21. For national Israel this will be a fact until they see the one they have pierced and believe on Him as the Messiah (Zechariah 12:10)
- E. "To anoint the most Holy"-This is a reference to the holy of holies in the millennial temple where the throne to the Messiah will be set up (Zechariah 6:13).

III. Vs. 25, SIXTY NINE SEVENS FULFILLED

- A. The decree spoken of here is the one that was given to Nehemiah by Artaxerxes in 445 BC (Nehemiah 2:1-8). Nehemiah tells us as the scripture verifies that the work went on in "troubled times" (Neh. 2:17-19).
- B. The seven units of seven, seven weeks of years equals 49 years. This was in 396 BC. $445-396=49$ years.
- C. Messiah the Prince is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. From the time of the restoration of Jerusalem, to the triumphal entry of Christ into Jerusalem was sixty-nine weeks or according to the Lunar Calendar of 360 days in a year, 483 years. God's prophetic calendar of seventy weeks of years stopped with the death of Christ and the clock will begin to tick again at the beginning of the tribulation..

IV. Vs. 26, HAPPENINGS AFTER THE SIXTY-NINTH SEVEN

- A. After sixty-two weeks, three score weeks, shall Messiah be cut off.
 1. "Cut off" means death and here speaks of the death of Jesus Christ who "died for our sins according to the

scriptures.” Edward B. Posey says regarding the Hebrew word used here that it: “never means anything but excision; death directly inflicted by God, or violent death at the hands of man, it is never used of mere death, nor to express sudden but natural death” (198). A few short days after Christ revealed Himself to the Jewish people as their Messiah He was crucified, “cut off.” “Cut off” from man, because of the sinfulness of the heart, from and from God, “My God, My God why hast Thou forsaken me?” To bear our wicked sins that we might be saved.

2. “But not for himself”- Oliver B. Greene says, “He died for others. He bore our sins in His own body...” 1 Peter 2:24 says, “Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins , should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes we are healed.”

B. “They shall destroy the city and the sanctuary...” the last part of this verse was fulfilled in 70 AD when Titus destroyed the city and the temple.

V. Vs. 27, SEVENTIETH SEVEN

- A. Sixty-nine weeks of Daniel’s prophecy have been fulfilled. The seventieth week is yet to be fulfilled. This seventieth week is the seven year tribulation period spoken of in Daniel and the Revelation.
- B. The Anti-Christ will, at the out set of the tribulation make a covenant of peace with Israel. For one week are seven years.
 1. In the midst of the week, seven years, he will break the covenant and cause all sacrifices in the tribulation temple to cease.
 2. The Anti-Christ will command that the world worship him as a god (Rev. 13:7-8, 12).
- C. The man of sin will desecrate the temple. Some believe he will do as Antiochus Epiphanes did in offering a pig on the altar. “Desolate” means that the altar will unusable for sacrifice.
- D. In the end, the Anti-Christ and others will be cast into the lake of fire. This will be near the end of the tribulation period (Rev. 19:20). Then the millennial kingdom will be ushered in.

Conclusion: The Bible is a God inspired book. Every prophecy has are will be fulfilled.

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June 6, 2010