

Daniel's Prayer and the 70 Weeks

Daniel 9

Outline

- Daniel's Preparation (v. 1 – 3)
- Daniel's Prayer (v. 4 – 19)
- Daniel's Commentary (v. 20 – 22a)
- God's Answer (v. 22b – 27)

Chronological Order of Daniel

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Daniel 1-6 | | |
| Ch. 1 | Nebuchadnezzar's 1st year | 605 B.C. |
| Ch. 2 | Nebuchadnezzar's 2nd year | 604 B.C. |
| Chs. 3-4 | Nebuchadnezzar's reign | 605-562 B.C. |
| Ch. 5 | Belshazzar's last year | 539 B.C. |
| Ch. 6 | Darius' reign | 539-525 B.C. |
| Daniel 7-12 | | |
| Ch. 7 | Belshazzar's 1st year | 550 B.C. |
| Ch. 8 | Belshazzar's 3rd year | 548 B.C. |
| Ch. 9 | Darius' 1st year | 539/538 B.C. |
| Chs. 10-12 | Cyrus' 3rd year | 536 B.C. |

Daniel's Preparation

- Daniel 9:2
 - Jeremiah 25:11 – The nations shall serve the king of Babylon 70 years.
 - Jeremiah 29:10 – I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place (Jerusalem).
- Why 70 years?
 - Jeremiah 34:12-14 – Israel has not observed the Sabbath rest throughout its history
 - 2 Chronicles 36:20-21 – Breaking the Sabbath rest
 - Leviticus 25:3 – The Sabbath Rest

Daniel's Preparation

- Daniel 9:3
 - Gave my attention to the Lord
 - Such as John 17:1-5
 - Contrary to James 4:3
 - By prayer and supplications
 - Prayer = intercession
 - Supplications = Pleas for mercy
 - With fasting, sackcloth and ashes
 - A third display of Daniel's humble attitude
 - An outward display of the inward heart

Daniel's Prayer

- Daniel 9:4-19
 - 3 Characteristics
 - Recognizing God and His character (v. 4)
 - (v. 7,9,12,14,15,16,18,19)
 - Acknowledging and confessing sin (v. 5-15)
 - Deuteronomy 27:15-26 – the curses
 - Leviticus 26:14-45 – Sevenfold punishment
 - Pleas for mercy according to all Your righteous acts (v. 16-19)
 - Turn away Your wrath and anger from Jerusalem and Your people
 - Let your face shine on Your desolate sanctuary

Daniel's Prayer

- Daniel 9:4-19
 - 3 Objects
 - His people, Israel (v16,19)
 - His City, Jerusalem (v.16,18,19)
 - His Sanctuary, The Temple (v16,17,18)

Daniel's Commentary

- Daniel 9:20-22a
 - Summarizing his prayer before the Lord
 - The man Gabriel appears
 - Daniel is interrupted from prayer to listen
 - Gabriel comes to give Daniel instruction

God's Answer

- Daniel 9:22b-23
 - At the beginning of your supplication
 - Command = Word; Message = Word
- How did God respond?
 - God's answer was immediate and future
 - 70 years captivity with Babylon did come to a close
 - Decree by Cyrus made in his first year (2 Chron 36:22-23 and Ezra 1-2)
 - Temple destroyed in 586 BC and it was rebuilt by 516
 - Ezra 6:15
 - ...

God's Answer

- Daniel 9:24
 - Seventy “weeks”
 - Weeks of years
 - Daniel 9:2 – 70 years
 - Year of Jubilee (Lev 25:8) – following the seven times seven (49 years)
 - Genesis 29 – Jacob serving Laban.
 - Contrast to Daniel 10:2-4
 - Sevenfold
 - Genesis 4:15,24
 - Leviticus 26:18,21,24,28
 - Exclusively for Israel and Jerusalem
 - Six items come to pass following these 70 weeks

God's Answer

- Daniel 9:24
 - Exclusively for Israel and Jerusalem
 - 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 (+)

God's Answer

- Daniel 9:25-26
 - Begins with a decree...
 - To restore and rebuild Jerusalem
 - $69 \times 7 = 483$ years
 - Ends with Messiah the Prince
 - During...
 - It will be built again with plaza and moat, even in times of distress
 - After 483 years...
 - The Messiah will be cut off and have nothing
 - The people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary
 - To the end there will be war; desolations are decreed

God's Answer

- Which decree began this 483 year period and which event ended it?
 - Start (?)
 - 538/7 BC – Cyrus' decree around the time that Gabriel revealed this prophecy to Daniel
 - 458 BC – Artaxerxes decree during Ezra's day (Ezra 7)
 - 445/4 BC – Artaxerxes decree for Nehemiah to return and rebuild the wall (Nehemiah 2)
 - End (?)
 - 5/4 BC – Christ birth (Luke 2:7)
 - 26/29 AD – Baptism (Matthew 3:12-17)
 - 30/33 AD – Triumphal entry into the city (Matthew 21:1-11)
 - 30/33 AD – The Cross (Matthew 27:35-37)

God's Answer

- Solar (Julian) or Lunar (Prophetic) calendar?
 - Yes, maybe both!
 - Prophetic year = 360 days. (30 days x 12 months)
- Is there another decree we are missing?
- Is there another event in Christ's life to consider?

God's Answer

- Math time
 - 69 weeks = $69 \times 7 = 483$
 - Solar Calendar (Ezra 7 to Jesus' Baptism)
 - $458 + 26 = 484$
 - $484 - 1^* = \underline{483}$
 - Prophetic Calendar (Neh. 2:1 to the Triumphant Entry or the Cross)
 - $483 \times 360 = 173,880$ days
 - $173,880 / 365.25 = \underline{476.06}$ or 476 years and 24 days
 - $444 + 33 = 477 - 1^* = 476$

God's Answer

- So which is it?
- It matters, but not to answer the bigger question...
 - Who came after 55 BC and before 38 AD?
 - Who else fits the description of the Messiah?
 - No one, but the Lord Jesus Christ
- Does the 70th week follow immediately after the 69th or is there a gap of time?
 - There does appear to be a gap...
 - Examples: Zechariah 9:9-10, Isaiah 62:1-2

God's Answer

- Daniel 9:27
 - The 70th week
 - Beginning
 - And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week
 - During
 - But in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering
 - And [in the second half of the week] on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate (2 Thess. 2:4)
 - End
 - The complete destruction is poured out on the one who makes desolate (2 Thess. 2:8, Rev. 19:20)

God's Answer

- Daniel 9:24
 - Exclusively for Israel and Jerusalem
 - 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
 - Will be fully accomplished at the end of the 70th week.