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

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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 (?)
    - 26/29 AD – Baptism (Matthew 3:12-17)
    - 30/33 AD – Triumphant 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 x 7 = 483
  – Solar Calendar (Ezra 7 to Jesus’ Baptism)
    • 458 + 26 = 484
    • 484 – 1* = 483
  – Prophetic Calendar (Neh. 2:1 to the Triumphal Entry or the Cross)
    • 483 x 360 = 173,880 days
    • 173,880 / 365.25 = 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 70\textsuperscript{th} week follow immediately after the 69\textsuperscript{th} or is there a gap of time?
  – There does appear to be a gap…
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.