

Survey of the Bible Daniel 9:24-27 70 Weeks

The last time we were together we began looking at the 70 weeks of Daniel and discovered that in the grand scheme of things Gabriel was giving Daniel a far reaching look into what would transpire in this 70 week scenario.

Daniel 9:24 ²⁴ "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy *place*.

Within this seventy sevens framework it is understood to stand for 70 weeks, a week being the seven multiplied by 70 adding up to a total of 490. These are understood to stand for sabbatical years.

A sabbatical year is a yearlong period to be observed by Jews once every seven years, during which the fields were to be left untilled and all agricultural labors were to be suspended. (Lev. 25).

And so, the significance of this number has to do with God's rest for His people and their land. In other words, at the end of the 70 sabbatical years the consummation of God's rest for His people will come to fruition.

70 is simply a multiple for the numbers 7 x 10. The number 7 is a number of completion and rest as God did so on the seventh day after six days of creation.

And so, the total number 490 is not so much an arithmetic number as it is a Theological number totaling the time in which God completes His promise to the Israel of God. This doesn't mean that there is not an arithmetic element to the number as we will see.

What Gabriel reveals is quite interesting and it has to do with six specific things to look forward to regarding this ultimate sabbatical rest.

- Transgression is finished
- Sins will be brought to an end
- Reconciliation will be made for iniquity
- Everlasting righteousness will be established
- Vision and Prophecy will be sealed
- The Most Holy will be anointed

All of these things pertain to the temple that will be rebuilt in Jerusalem but only as shadows of the reality of what these things speak to which, as we have said, is Jesus Christ our God and Redeemer who can be the only one capable of satisfying all of those things addressed in verse 24.

The entire 70 weeks therefore encompasses redemptive history in this present cursed and sin filled world with the Messiah being ushered in as the Most Holy Place at the end of the last week.

Revelation 21:22 ²² I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple

In being our temple, our Most Holy place, Jesus Christ establishes the everlasting righteousness we long for.

2 Peter 3:13 ¹³ But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

But as we saw last time it is within this 69 week framework that the actual atonement takes place with the Lord being cut off, which speaks to His crucifixion.

Daniel 9:26 ²⁶ "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing,

This 62 weeks follows the 7 weeks, thus adding up to 69.

But to identify how God works and the actual work He does in this 70 sevens time frame He shows Daniel the plan as He declares in **Daniel 9:24** ²⁴ "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city,

Again, keep in mind that what is declared for the people of God and the Holy city transcends the actual real estate in Jerusalem and is to represent the shadow called the Holy City in Jerusalem.

So, the entire plan of God begins and ends within this framework.

As we saw last time the first division within the 70 weeks is found in verses 25 and 26.

Daniel 9:25-26 ²⁵ "So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress. ²⁶ "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end *will come* with a

flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

The first division is made up of 69 sevens or weeks of years and that is divided into 7 weeks and 62 weeks adding up to the 69.

What do these represent and when does this begin to take place?

It begins with a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. This is the decree made by Cyrus, king of Persia.

2 Chronicles 36:22-23 ²² Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia-- in order to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah-- the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he sent a proclamation throughout his kingdom, and also *put it* in writing, saying, ²³ "Thus says Cyrus king of Persia, 'The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has appointed me to build Him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all His people, may the LORD his God be with him, and let him go up!'"

It is Cyrus, according to Isaiah, who is the one that fulfills this command despite other leaders issuing similar commands, including Darius and Artaxerxes.

Isaiah 44:28 ²⁸ "*It is I* who says of Cyrus, '*He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.*' And he declares of Jerusalem, '*She will be built,*' And of the temple, '*Your foundation will be laid.*'"

Well, when was this decree made? It was around 456 BC.

When this date is placed against the time in which the Messiah will be cut off, 69 sevens of years or 483 years, we come to the year AD 27. When you subtract 456 from 483, you end up with 27, keeping in mind we're moving toward the year zero and then moving ahead 27 years past that into the time after Christ's birth around 3-4 BC, placing us at the time the Messiah was cut off or crucified.

But this is where the arithmetical calculations end and the final week begins leading up to God's completion of His plan of redemption.

It is this last week that we want to look at now since this last week of the 70 is now in play.

Many people, especially those of the pre-millennial dispensational persuasion, believe that this last week has been put in suspension, for at least the last 2,000 years, until the rapture of the church by Christ, at which point the final week will begin its countdown with the “prince who is to come” making a covenant with Israel but in the middle of the week will renege on that covenant.

This particular scheme is known as the time of the Great Tribulation where for 3 ½ years there is relative peace, but the last 3 ½ years marks the end of the world, after which time Christ bodily returns to set up His 1,000 year reign on the present sin-filled, curse world.

It is at the end of this week, this seven year period, where they believe the last battle takes place after Satan is released after a thousand years, but Christ and His army are victorious and Satan and the beast and the false prophet along with all unbelievers will be thrown into the Lake of Fire.

Revelation 20:7-10 ⁷ When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, ⁸ and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. ⁹ And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. ¹⁰ And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

But is this what Daniel alludes to as the final week of the 70 that he describes?

Nowhere in the word of God is it even alluded to that there is thousands of years separated from the final week, the 70th week of Daniel’s prophecy.

Rather, Daniel’s prophecy is clear to say that the total of 70 sevens are one unit, contiguously divided into threes. In other words, each division flows into the next seamlessly.

7 flows into 62 which flows into 1 totalling 70.

If this is the case then the 69th week, which marked the cutting off of Messiah, has taken place and we are living in the 70th and final week.

This is where the theological aspect of numbers comes into play because the final week like the seventh day of the creation week marks the beginning of all that is to follow.

And so, the week following the 69 weeks marks the beginning of the last chapter in our redemption leading up to the end. This week, one seven, is typical of the week that Israel was shown in a celebration that God instituted for His people to show how He was with them in their deliverance and their hope through that deliverance. It was called the Feast of Booths.

Leviticus 23:34 ³⁴ "Speak to the sons of Israel, saying, 'On the fifteenth of this seventh month is the Feast of Booths for seven days to the LORD.

Leviticus 23:41-43 ⁴¹ 'You shall thus celebrate it *as* a feast to the LORD for seven days in the year. It *shall be* a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you shall celebrate it in the seventh month. ⁴² 'You shall live in booths for seven days; all the native-born in Israel shall live in booths, ⁴³ so that your generations may know that I had the sons of Israel live in booths when I brought them out from the land of Egypt. I am the LORD your God.'"

It is this week in which God shows how He met the needs of Israel in the wilderness. It is also this week where Jesus Christ promises to continue to meet the needs of His people in the wilderness up to that final day.

Revelation 12:6 ⁶ Then the woman fled into the wilderness where she had a place prepared by God, so that there she would be nourished for one thousand two hundred and sixty days.

Instead of the number seven, as in the week of the Feast of Booths, God is using the number 1,260 days to describe the same truth that as we wander in this world God is faithful to bring us from the bondage of Egypt, (bondage to sin), into that triumphant city, the Promised Land.

But, even as He secures the protection of His people from the enemy, this does not mean we are exempt from the attacks of the enemy and Daniel brings this out.

^{NAU} **Daniel 7:25** 'He will speak out against the Most High and wear down the saints of the Highest One, and he will intend to make alterations in times and in law; and they will be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

The enemy will make alterations in time and in law as he tries to redefine God's law and God's timing with his own agenda as he fights against God and His people.

And this will happen within the last of times or as Daniel describes it, time, times and half a time.

Again, this is the same language that John uses of the last days as the enemy comes against us.

Revelation 12:14-17 ¹⁴ But the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman, so that she could fly into the wilderness to her place, where *she was nourished for a time and times and half a time, from the presence of the serpent.* ¹⁵ *And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her to be swept away with the flood.* ¹⁶ But the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened its mouth and drank up the river which the dragon poured out of his mouth. ¹⁷ So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and went off to make war with the rest of her children, who keep the commandments of God and hold to the testimony of Jesus.

God nourishes and protects His people in the wilderness until the very end. This has always been the way of the Lord.

But Daniel also tells us that in this final week the people of God will turn away as the enemy infiltrates her ranks and makes her desolate, despite the firm covenant that God makes with His people.

Daniel 9:27 ²⁷ "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations *will come* one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."

The destruction of Jerusalem along with her temple sacrifices was brought to an end in 70 AD, but this was a mere picture of the destruction and apostasy that will take place at the end among God's people.

Paul speaks to this when writing to the Thessalonians.

2 Thessalonians 2:2-4 ² *that you not be quickly shaken from your composure* or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect *that the day of the Lord has come.*

³ Let no one in any way deceive you, *for it will not come unless*

the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

This is where redemptive history is going as Satan continues to try and destroy the woman of Rev.12, but we know that just as in the case of the Feast of Booths for Israel wandering in the wilderness, God will deliver His people to safety in the end.

The “church” like Israel of old, will find itself whoring after other gods, but the remnant, the true people of God will be brought safely into the New Jerusalem despite the harlotry of the false church.

Revelation 17:1-2 ^{NAU} Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, ² with whom the kings of the earth committed *acts of* immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality."

God will not be mocked and Daniel is a classic example of this because he is the product of a people who mocked God and turned away from God and ended up being exiled to Babylon for her sins.

Babylon is the picture of the world gone mad as they chase the beast and the false prophet of this world.

There will be a day of final reckoning for future Babylon as there was a day of reckoning on the Babylon of old as God brought them low. Isaiah and Jeremiah spoke to this.

^{NAU} **Isaiah 21:9** "Now behold, here comes a troop of riders, horsemen in pairs." And one said, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon; And all the images of her gods are shattered on the ground."

^{NAU} **Jeremiah 51:37** "Babylon will become a heap *of ruins*, a haunt of jackals, An object of horror and hissing, without inhabitants.

This world, Babylon, which has fought against God since the fall, will be brought low in the end and God will gain the victory for His people.

Revelation 18:2-5 ² And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "*Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great!* She has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and

a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. ³ "For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed *acts of* immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality." ⁴ I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues; ⁵ for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.

This is the message of Daniel and the revelation he received from God as God showed him a picture, not just of a temporary return of the remnant to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple after 70 years, but a future return to the Promised Land at the end of 70 sevens as God brings His people into the New Jerusalem in whose midst is the true temple.

Revelation 21:22-23 ²² I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ And the city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp *is* the Lamb.

Revelation 21:2-7 ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." ⁵ And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." And He said, "Write, for these words are faithful and true." ⁶ Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. ⁷ "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

As we will see in the three remaining chapters of Daniel there will be conflict to the end, but we will also see that this conflict will lead to the hope that we as believers desire and that is to be in the presence of our God in safety and in everlasting life.