

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

## BOOK OF DANIEL

### A VISITOR (DANIEL 9:20-23) STILL IN PRAYER MODE

Daniel had likely been confessing personal and national sin and praying for hours because when he was interrupted it was during the time of the evening sacrifice

#### THE TIME OF EVENING SACRIFICE WAS OVER

Since the temple of Jerusalem had been destroyed, the Jews had not properly offered sacrifice to God in over 50 years. Interestingly though, Daniel still observed the rituals of his people and based his schedule around those disciplines

- Will we observe the disciplines of our faith without large gatherings?

#### "YOU ARE TREASURED BY GOD" (V23)

Gabriel's quick response to Daniel came because his strong relationship with God.

- Though there are a few cases of God answering the prayers of people living in sin, the Bible is clear the prayers of righteous people are listened to by Him. (John 9:31, 1 John 5:14-15, James 5:16)

#### PRAYING FOR CLARITY AND HOPE

Daniel's prayer was to gain clarity on when God would restore His people, His name, and how long the Jews would suffer under pagan nations. Gabriel came to give him **insight and understanding**

- **Wisdom and knowledge** are gifts given to us from God (1Corinthians 12:8) if we live **holy, humbly**, and ask for them.

Daniel challenges us to link faith with intelligence, and to ask for and seek the gifts of wisdom and knowledge. We are responsible to work towards greater understanding of our faith.

#### WAITING (DANIEL 9:24)

#### SEVENTY WEEKS IS A LITTLE CONFUSING

This phrase is called a heptad, which means a group of 7. Weeks here actually represent heptads, so v24 is talking about a time period of 490 years (70x7).

- The numbers 7 and 10 show completion, and this 490 years (7x7x10) will be the period in which 6 major objectives will be accomplished
- **"To bring rebellion to an end"** represents the coming of the Kingdom of God, or the millennial kingdom, that will put rebellion to an end
- **"To put a stop to sin"** is not the forgiveness of sin, but the restraint of it. So, this is not Christ's 1st coming, because sin is obviously alive and well, but His 2nd
- **"To wipe away iniquity"** points to the crucifixion. Iniquity is more than a sin, but a lifestyle of immorality. Daniel had been asking how could a nation find forgiveness, and Gabriel clarifies.

#### PAUSE FOR A SECOND

Notice the first 3 are negative and about cleaning up sin. The next 3 are positive and about the restoration of moral integrity

- **"To bring in everlasting righteousness"** means God will transform His people and write His law on their hearts (Jeremiah 31:33-40). This seems to be a future event as well.

#### "TO SEAL UP VISION AND PROPHECY"

Once sin is removed and righteousness is installed, the teachings and writings of the prophets will be completed. This would include John and Revelation.

#### "TO ANOINT THE MOST HOLY PLACE"

There are many interpretations of this: the Maccabees taking Jerusalem back in 165 A.D., Jesus anointed by the Holy Spirit at baptism, the revelation of Jesus to the Jews, or could be symbolic of our uniting with God in heaven

- People argue if the "holy place" is a building, person, or group

#### THE MILLENNIAL TEMPLE

The "most holy place" is probably referring to a temple built during the time of the 1000 years when Jesus reigns over earth.

- To the Jews this would make them think of Ezekiel 40-44 where it talks about a rebuilt literal temple. In light of the NT we may see this as God's people

#### THE POINT IS THIS...

This passage states 3 truths to the Jews in Daniel's day.

1. Within 490 years, the Savior will come to earth.
2. The Savior will provide the means for the riddance of sin (the Cross).
3. The Savior's 2nd appearance would fulfill everything the prophets (OT and NT) had said, and the new temple would be ready (literal or figurative)

#### WE COMPLICATE THE POINT.

Major on the majors and minor on the minors. We often get caught in semantics and lose our focus. Regardless of our minor differences, all Believers can agree that Christ is the Savior, He is coming back, and we must prepare for that.

#### DESTINY (DANIEL 9:25-27)

#### THE DECREE TO RESTORE JERUSALEM

This is the beginning of the time in which the city will be built back. This is not the same as the temple in the previous section

- This more than likely began in 445 B.C. and issued by Artaxerxes and carried out by Nehemiah roughly 100 years after Daniel died, and the Jews had returned home

#### FROM THE REBUILDING, TO THE MESSIAH

From the time Jerusalem starts its construction to the coming of Christ and His ministry, there will be "7 weeks and 62 weeks," or 483 years.

- The biblical/prophetic year had 360 days, and if one researches this prophecy, one sees that it is remarkably accurate in telling the time between Jerusalem's restoration and start of Jesus' ministry

#### "IT WILL BE REBUILT WITH A PLAZA AND MOAT"

Nehemiah rebuilt the city in just 52 days, precisely, and in very "difficult" times.

- **"After the 62 weeks..."**, or 62 heptads, Jesus will be "cut off" and "have nothing." This is a reference to the crucifixion.

#### "THE PEOPLE OF THE COMING PRINCE..."

After the 69th heptad (week) a "prince" will come in and destroy Jerusalem again, and war and division will exist until the 2nd coming of Christ

- This came to fruition when the Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70A.D. under Titus. The crucifixion and the destruction of Jerusalem started the beginning of the end

#### THIS RELATES TO THE WORDS OF JESUS

Matthew 24:7-22 talks about the "beginning of birth pains" that will eventually lead to the 2nd coming of Christ. We need to recognize the difference in the beginning of the end (1st century) and the end of the end (Revelation 19-20)

- Between the fall of Jerusalem and the end of time, the Antichrist will arise

#### IN THE LAST 7 YEARS

The bottom part of the statue in chap. 2 and the terrifying beast of chap. 7 comes against the people of God in the 70th "week"

- v27 is about the 7 years of tribulation. At the beginning, the Antichrist will make a covenant with Israel, but in the middle (3 ½ years) he will break it and begin to persecute people

#### THE ABOMINATION THAT CAUSES DESOLATION

The temple had been desecrated many times in Jewish history, but this reference is in regards to the atrocious things the Antichrist will do to blaspheme God and persecute Christians and Jews during the tribulation

- Antiochus and Titus were prototypes of the final evil leader

#### WE DON'T KNOW THE SPACE BETWEEN

The time between the Cross and the destruction of Jerusalem (69th week) and the 7 years of tribulation (70th week) is unknown. This is intentional.

- To not know the exact date of Christ's return pushes us into forming a lifelong relationship with Him, not just a superficial one to avoid hell

#### AGAIN, FOCUS ON THE GENERAL SENSE

The point is not to break codes and timelines, but to know that an Antichrist will come and rule for 7 years until God comes to destroy him at Armageddon (Rev. 19)

- **Our goal is not cryptology, but Christology!** We are to align ourselves with Him and prepare for His return, even during turbulent times

#### NOTICE THE PRAYER IS LONGER THAN THE PROPHECY

The prophecy is not less important than the prayer, but we see that our relationship with God is the main purpose of the Word of God, not just to warn us of His return.

- **The Bible is not an escape manual from hell, but a love story that should inspire the reader to grow closer to our Maker!**

#### THE POINT

- The minors come after the majors.
- Are we seeking wisdom and knowledge?
- Revelation comes through relationship, relationship comes through prayer
- Are we motivated to study scripture in order to grow close to God?
- Do we trust the plan of God?
- We know what's coming. What are we doing?

#### THROW THE TIMELINE OUT

- Do we have a real relationship with Christ?
- Have we let the Spirit transform our minds, hearts, and desires?
- Are we building relationships with non-believers? Let's not forget how badly people need hope and direction!
- Are we being servants of God and man?