

GOD'S AMAZING PROPHECY

Daniel 9:24-27

PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

God promised Judah through the prophet Jeremiah that her captivity in Babylon would be 70 years (Jer 25:11-12; 29:10-11). Some Jews would return, but most would stay in Babylon. However, God wanted all of His people, Judah and Israel, to return to their homeland where they could receive His Son as their Messiah-King; He wanted all twelve tribes to be there. So God sent Gabriel to tell Daniel His plan to accomplish this work. When Israel would receive His Son, He would give them six blessings. This work would involve seventy weeks. A careful study of prophecy and Israel's culture reveals that these were not weeks of days, but weeks of years (seven years to a week). That meant 490 years were involved. However, this plan would not begin until a decree was made to rebuild Jerusalem. That decree was made almost 100 years later by Artaxerxes in 445 B.C., when he granted the request of Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. So the 490 years would go well beyond the number of years that Jesus Christ was on earth. It became apparent that not all of the weeks were consecutive. A careful study of prophecy showed that there was a space between the 69th and 70th week of years. The first 69 weeks have been fulfilled, but the 70th week has not. This week of seven years is called the Tribulation. It is during this week that Israel finally repents of their rebellion against Jesus and receives Him as their Messiah-King. When that happens, they will receive the six blessings promised in Daniel 9:24. This lesson will show how the salvation of Israel will affect every person on the earth. This amazing prophecy is probably the greatest of all prophecies. Grasp this prophecy and you will have a good hold of the Bible.

Aim of the Lesson: Pray for Israel to receive Jesus and be saved; this will finally bring peace on earth. "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved" (Romans 10:1).

Outline of the Lesson (Use the Study Notes to add to this lesson plan as the Spirit leads you.)

I. Content of God's Program – 9:24

This prophecy concerns Daniel's people and about the holy city, Jerusalem. All of it is about Israel, not the Church. However, when Israel receives Jesus as their Messiah-King, it will affect all people. He will rule all nations of the world from Jerusalem and church believers will rule with Him (Rev 3:21).

God has promised to give six blessings to Israel when her people receive Jesus as their Messiah-King. The first three blessings are related to the cross of Christ, when He died for their sins.

A.. "Finish the transgression" – Israel's rebellion against God will come to an end when she receives His Son as Savior (Zech 12:10-13:1). God will be her friend and no longer her enemy.

B. "Make and end of sins" – Israel's personal sins are forgiven and forgotten when they receive Jesus as their Savior; their sins are buried in the sea (Mic 7:18-19).

C. "Make reconciliation for iniquity" – Atonement for Israel's perverse sin was made possible by Jesus' death on the cross, but it becomes pertinent when she receives Jesus as Savior (2 Cor 5:19-20).

The last three blessings are related to the crown of Christ, when He rules the world from Jerusalem.

D. "Bring in everlasting righteousness" – Christ will bring in lasting righteousness to Israel and to all the nations of the world when He is King of kings (Isa 11:2-5) because He is fully righteous (Jer 23:5-6) and He will rule the world in righteousness (Zech 14:9-21).

E. "Seal up the vision and prophecy"– When Christ is King of Israel and rules the nations, prophecies regarding Israel will be fulfilled and sealed up (Dt 30:1-10; Jer 31:33-40; Ezk 36:24-38).

F. "Anoint the most holy" – When Christ comes to rule the earth, He will dedicate the Millennial Temple located in the midst of Israel (Ezk 43:1-5; 44:4; 45:3).

We as church believers will be blessed when Israel is blessed. We will be able rule the world with Jesus Christ (Rev 2:26-27; 3:21; 20:6), when Israel receives Him as Messiah and is blessed. Then God will bless Christ and establish His throne in Jerusalem to rule the world (Ps 2:6-9).

II. Chronology of God's Program – 9:25-27

This was a prophecy given to Daniel in 538 B.C. and most of it has been fulfilled, which gives us the assurance that the rest will be fulfilled according to God's time sometime in the future.

A. Sixty Nine Weeks of Years – 9:25

The sixty nine weeks are divided into two periods of time, which last for 483 years.

1. The first period is 7 weeks (49 years), which began in 445 B.C. During this period Jerusalem was rebuilt as prophesied. It happened during the rule of the Medo-Persians when Ezra, Nehemiah and Malachi lived. Nehemiah began the rebuilding of Jerusalem by erectng a wall around the city.

2. The seond period is 62 weeks (434 years. One prophecy is fulfilled at the close of this period: Messiah the Prince was introduced to Israel as their King. This is Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem on what is often called Palm Sunday..This period begins during the rule of the Medo-Persians, goes through the rule of the Grecians and ends during the early rule of the Romans.

B. Space of Unknown Years – 9:26

After Jesus entered Jerusalem and presented Himself as Israel's King, there is a gap of unknown years between the 69th week of years and the 70th week. During this time, Israel will reject Jesus as their Messiah-King, but Jesus will build His Church (Mt 16:18). When His Church is completed, He will take the Church believers to Heaven in the Rapture (1 Thes 4:13-17) and soon afterwards the 70th week will begin. The 70th week is the Tribulation that will be the last seven years of this prophecy. At the end of the 70th week, Jesus will be received by Israel as her Messiah0-King.. However, three things were predicted to happen during this gap in the prophecy.

1. **Messiah is Crucified.** Jesus was "cut off" (crucified) a week after He was heralded as Israel's King. He paid the death penalty for all sinners, but at that time he did not receive any of the blessings that belonged to Him as King. He died so believers could live in His Kingdom on earth (Zech 14:9).

2. **Jerusalem is Destroyed.** Antichrist will be ruler (prince) of the revived Roman Empire in the future (Dan 7:7-8, 19-25), but the people of this prince in the first Roman Empire demolished the city of Jerusalem and its sanctuary (the temple) in A.D. 70). This happened 38 years after Jesus was crucified.

3. **War is Determined.** The Jews have suffered the desolation of war during this gap and will continue to suffer itntil the end. The "end" may refer to the end of the Tribulation, when Jesus Christ will come to rescue Jerusalem from complete destruction by Antichrist and his allies (Zech 14:1-4).

C. Seventieth Week of Years – 9:27

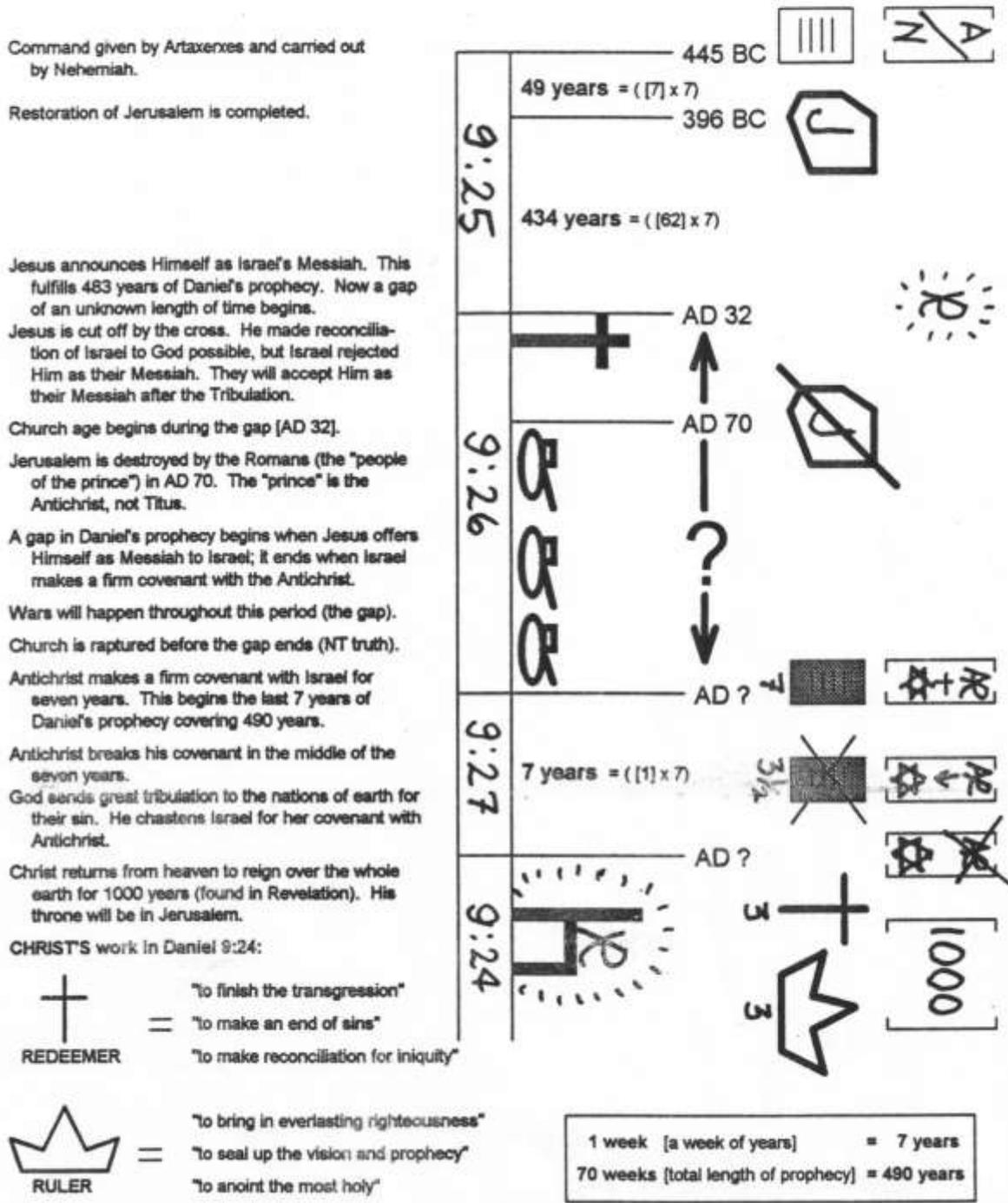
Antichrist's activity is prominent during the 70th week, the last seven years of this prophecy. First, he makes a firm covenant with Israel for seven years. This is an insult to God and is Israel's greatest apostasy (2 Thes 2:3-4). This begins the seven-year Tribulation. Second, Antichrist breaks his covenant with Israel and stops all sacrifices and offerings to God. This indicates that Israel will have a Temple and worship services in Jerusalem. Probably that is the reason for the firm covenant. Third, Antichrist will desolate the Temple with his abomination. This refers to the image of himself that he will set up in the Temple area and demand that all people worship him as their god (Rev 13:11-17; 2 Thes 2:4). Jesus warned the Israelites living in that day to flee to the mountains when they would see this abomination of desolation in the holy place (Mt 24:15-16). Finally, God will destroy Antichrist, who desolated His Temple (Rev 19:20). Thisl allows Christ to make Jerusalem His capital from which He will rule the world.

We must wait for Israel to receive Jesus as her Messiah-King. The extreme suffering of the Israelites during the Tribulation will cause them to turn to Christ and save them as a nation and as individuals. When that happens we will reign with Christ over the nations of the earth.

PEACE WILL COME TO EARTH WHEN ISRAEL MAKES PEACE WITH CHRIST

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CHART OF DANIEL 9:24-27 by Roger L. Peterson



[NOTICE to TEACHERS: Your students have an incomplete chart of Daniel 9:24-27, so they will need your help to complete the chart and explain the symbols. Help the to understand the chart as they fill in the missing parts of the chart.]

AN EXPLANATION OF THE SYMBOLS IN THE CHART OF DANIEL 9:24-27



Artaxerxes – King of Medo-Persia
Nehemiah – cupbearer for Artaxerxes



Decree of Artaxerxes in 445 B.C.



Wall around Jerusalem



Symbol for Christ and the glory lines around Him indicate His triumphal entry into Jerusalem



Jerusalem destroyed



Represents war



Antichrist makes a firm covenant  with Israel for seven years



Antichrist breaks his covenant  after 3½ years and attacks Israel



Antichrist is cast alive into the Lake of Fire and Israel is given six blessings



Christ is on His glorious throne ruling the world for 1000 years

CHART FOR VISIONS IN DANIEL 8 AND 9

KINGDOM	DANIEL 8	DANIEL 9
BABYLONIAN		
MEDO-PERSIAN	RAM with two horns: one was higher (Persia) than the other (Media). The ram was the symbol of M-P. The ram pushed west (Lydia & Babylon), north (Scythia) and south (Egypt) – Dan 8:3-4.	In 445 B.C. Artaxerxes made a decree to let Nehemiah rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. In the next 49 years Jerusalem was rebuilt (seven weeks of years) – Dan 9:25; see Neh 2:1-8; 6:15.
GRECIAN	MALE GOAT (Greece) came swiftly from the west; its feet didn't touch the ground. it had a big horn (Alex), ran into the ram and destroyed it. The big horn was broken (Alex' death). His empire was divided into 4 Greek nations; 2 oppressed Israel. Out of Syria came a little horn (Antiochus Epiphanes) that persecuted the Jews and polluted the Temple, but he was judged by God--Dan 8:5-12, 16-25. He is a type of Antichrist	62 weeks of years (434 years) covered the last part of the Medo-Persian rule, all of the Grecian rule, and the first part of the Roman rule. Nothing is said about the Grecian rule in this vision. Much more will be said about the Grecian rule in Daniel 11.
ANCIENT ROMAN		The 62 weeks of years will continue "unto Messiah the Prince." This refers to Jesus triumphal entry into Jerusalem, called Palm Sunday. This is followed by is a gap in the prophecy. 69 weeks of years has been fulfilled, but not the 70 th week of years. During this gap Jesus is cut off (crucified) and has nothing (did not receive His Kingdom). The people (Roman) of the prince to come (Antichrist) destroyed Jerusalem (A.D. 70). Wars will continue.
FUTURE ROMAN	The little horn, Antiochus Epiphanes of Syria, is a type of the little horn that will arise in the latter days from the future Roman Empire. He is Antichrist and will be much worse than Antiochus Epiphanes.	70 th week of years is the future Tribulation. Antichrist will make a covenant with the Jews for 7 years, but he will break it after 3½ years. Then he will attempt to destroy Israel.
MESSIANIC		Antichrist, the desolator of God's Temple will be desolated. Israel will repent of its sin and receive Jesus as her Messiah and she shall be given 6 blessings – Dan 9:24.