

#14 - Standing Up in a Smackdown World

2/15/2009 - Jim Johnson/Daniel 9:20-27

Daniel 9:20-27 is considered to be the backbone of biblical prophecy. It provides a time framework into which all other prophecies can be positioned. It falls into 3 segments

A. The prayer went _____ – 20

Daniel had been reading the prophecies of Jeremiah (cp 29) where the prophet predicted that the people of Israel would be held captives for 70 years. At the time Daniel reading, 67 of the 70 years had already passed. He responded by praying for himself & his nation asking God to forgive & return them to their land.

B. The Answer Came _____ – 21-23

Late in the day the angel Gabriel appeared to him once again, dispatched by God to deliver the answer to his prayer. It was a prolonged prayer. It was probably prayed constantly during that period Daniel was framed by the Satraps for his praying (Dan. 6). God was pleased with him (9:23) and therefore gave him the 3rd of 4 visions. This one was revealed in about 538 BC. It was both an answer to Daniel's prayer, and another specific revelation of the future

C. The truth came _____ – 24-27 The truth had to do with the Messiah.

1. The _____ of Messiah – 24-25

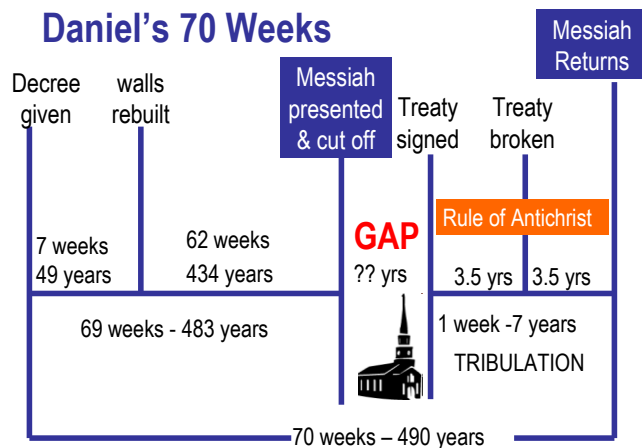
Gabriel spoke of 70 weeks. (NIV- "Seventy 'sevens" The word in the Hebrew is "hepstad" which was used similarly to our word "dozen." We might speak of 70 dozen which would be 70 groups of 12. 70 hepstads would be 70 groups of 7. Gabriel's vision covered 70 hepstads or 70 groups of 7 years which total – 490 years.

During these 490 years – six incredibly important things will happen. (24) The first three had to do with sin and were later taken care of at Calvary by Christ. The last three purposes have not yet been fulfilled. There is no everlasting kingdom that has been established, there are prophecies yet to be fulfilled and modern day Israel still awaits the rebuilding of the final temple. Evidently there is a break in time between the first 3 purposes and the last 3.

In verse 25 he divides up the 70 weeks of years into 2 segments. 7 weeks of 49 years, and 62 weeks of 434 years. (see the chart on the back of this sheet) The segment of 7 weeks or 49 years begins with a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem and it ends when the walls and city have been rebuilt. The second segment of 62 years or 434 weeks begins at the very moment

that the 49 ends – at the time when the rebuilding of Jerusalem is completed – and the 62 weeks will end when this person called Messiah the Prince makes His debut.

This vision was seen in 538 BC and the Jews were held captive in Babylon. It would not be until 444 when King Artaxerxes would issue a decree that permitted the Jews to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (Neh. 2:1-8) When that decree was issued, the stop watch began to tick off 7 weeks of years - 49 years to be exact. When the walls were completed and the city was restored and functional the first segment stopped and the second segment of 62 weeks of years



or 434 years began. From the time of the decree - the time Messiah comes will be 483 years. (Keep in mind that these would be Jewish years made up of 360 days and plus you lose a year because there was no year 0 and so on. Any way with all those adjustments you come up with an end date of about 29 to 30 A.D the time of Christ's ministry on the earth.)

Question: Verse 24 spoke of 70 weeks but in verse 25 he discusses only 69 of those weeks. What happened to the last week of years? Evidently there is a break in time which becomes evident in verse 26

2. The _____ of Messiah – 26

434 years after the city of Jerusalem was rebuilt and restored, the promised Messiah of Israel would enter that city just as Gabriel predicted. The people would cry "*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.*" (Mt. 21:1-11) A short time later, however, the same people would cry "*Crucify him*" He would be "cut off" meaning that He would be executed on a cross and instead of inheriting the Kingdom and he would be left with nothing. As a consequence for rejecting the Lord's Messiah, "*the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.*" This took place in 70 AD when Titus and his Roman legions would sweep into Jerusalem and level it stone by stone.

3. The _____ by Messiah – 27

There is a gap of time between the 69th and the 70th week. Because Israel rejected her Messiah, so God gave them another time out and turned his attention to the church. Today we find ourselves somewhere in that time gap. Verse 27 then catapults us into the future when the clock on the 70th week will begin to tick again and God begins to deal with the Jews. The "he" in verse 27 refers back to the "prince to come" of verse 26. This would be the Antichrist. It was his predecessors who leveled Jerusalem. We know from the book of Revelation that it will be Antichrist who will force a 7 year treaty with Israel. This is the time we know as the great Tribulation. 3 ½ years later he will break that treaty and usurp the place of God.

APPLICATION

There is so much in this chapter that is exciting that we may miss the most important part of all. Verse 26 tells us that Christ was "cut off" This was Daniel's way of saying that the Messiah would die a brutal death. We know that His death was not an accident, but a deliberate decision on His part, in order to redeem us

Messiah was cut off, that we might be _____

If you do not know Him, ask him, quietly - to forgive you - to save you and give you the gift of eternal life.

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Use this section in your personal or family devotions to better apply the truth.

1. Do you understand Daniel 9:24-27. It may be a little challenging. Review the notes, and read the text of Scripture several times to fix it in your thinking.
2. Does this prophecy tend to fascinate you or intimidate you? Why?
3. Countless Jews read this passage even today and completely miss that fact that their expected Messiah was "cut off." What does Christ's being "cut off" personally mean to you?