

Intro- As we continue to explore Daniel 9, we have seen where Daniel as an 80 plus yr old man, has just been given high leadership in the new Persian Empire which just conquered Babylon.

* He had been praying fervently in v1-19, for God to intervene and bring Israel to repentance, so they would desire to return to their land, when the Persian rulers soon decreed they could.

* Now we see-**Part 2--** **GOD'S ANSWER TO DANIEL'S PRAYERS.** (20-27)

* The First thing we notice is that again, God answered Daniel by---

THE COMING OF THE ANGEL GABRIEL. (20-23- READ)

* In the bible Gabriel is God's important messenger. His name means- "the strong 1 of God".

* Daniel saw Gabriel earlier as he interpreted his vision in Ch. 8, and the story of ch. 9 reveals **4 good reasons** why Daniel was privileged to have Gabriel bring this answer.

1. Gabriel was sent - because Daniel faithfully prayed. (22-23a)

- Gabriel told Daniel that "as soon as *he* began to pray", Gabriel was dispatched to Daniel with God's answer.

- Daniel was praying God would restore captive Israel to their land, and Gabriel revealed in vs 25a, that the decree would soon be issued to let the Jews return and rebuild.

Lesson- "The effective fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much". (Jms 5:16)

2. Gabriel was sent - to give Daniel an important vision about the Messiah. (23)

- In vs 23 Gabriel told Daniel- "to consider the message and understand the vision".

- Daniel's ch 7+8 visions caused him to be troubled and he was sick for days, so another vision might not have been welcome news to Daniel.

- But because Daniel cared much about God's plans, here God used him again, this time to receive the most detailed single prophecy in the bible about the coming of the Messiah.

- Nearly 500 yrs Later, Gabriel would be sent to announce the Messiah to Mary and Joseph, so it fit well for God to send Gabriel to Daniel here, to announce the Messiah's coming.

3. Gabriel was sent - because of Daniel's character.

- In vs 23 Gabriel told him he was "highly esteemed". (greatly loved- ESV)
- Q- In v21b, Gabriel came "about the time of the evening sacrifice". Daniel lived in Babylon, but his heart was still set on the times of worship in the Temple. This is when he prayed"
- Because Daniel had a consistent godly heart and life, and he prayed selfless prayers, God cherished him greatly, so He sent His great angel Gabriel to him.

4. Gabriel was sent - because of Daniel's confusion. (22)

- Remember in ch. 8- Daniel was told 13 years earlier, that far into Israel's future, they would be severely persecuted under the authority of a future Greek leader.
 - But in 9:1-2 Daniel also knew from Jeremiah, that Judah's captivity would end at 70 years, and that time had arrived, and soon Israel would return to the land and rebuild.
 - And Daniel and the returning Jews hoped that when they were back in their land, Messiah would come, fulfill OT prophecy, and set up His world-wide kingdom.
 - These 2 pieces of information contradicted each other. If Messiah would soon come to bring His kingdom, how could Israel be persecuted by the Greeks, far into the future?
 - So this new vision fills in the blanks. Here Gabriel revealed information about Messiah's first coming, then His death, then another future destruction of Jerusalem, then 7 years of tribulation, and finally, Messiah's 2nd coming to rule the world.
 - Daniel and Israel needed this information so everything his visions revealed would make prophetic sense for Israel's future. **But also understand this--**
- * At this point in Israel's history, they were so far from God and His Word, they had miserably failed to understand the prophecies of Messiah's death. (Ps. 22, 69, Isa 53, others)
- * So what Daniel was told was to reinforce what David, Isaiah and others wrote about **Christ's 2 comings**, His 1st coming to die, and His 2nd coming to judge and rule the world.

(We will see this unfold as the vision moves along)

NOW WE WILL EXPLORE THE VISION AND ITS INFORMATION. (See the timeline)

IN THIS PROPHECY, GABRIEL DESCRIBES 4 TIME PERIODS IN ISRAEL'S FUTURE.

We will define each period of time, and see what happens in regard to each one.

I. THE 70 WEEK TIME PERIOD. (v24- read)

- * Gabriel first told Daniel that God has determined a definite period of time to accomplish His dealings with God's chosen people, and their Holy city, Jerusalem.
- * This is the overall time period that the other 3 time periods fit into. And this span of time brings world history from Daniel's day, right to the time of Jesus' return.
- * This is real news because seldom does a prophecy give time limits where a person can calculate how long it will be until certain events take place. **Notice 3 things about this time span.**

A. THE DEFINITION OF THIS TIME PERIOD.

- * Gabriel described it with the word "sevens" (NIV)-- "Seventy **sevens** are decreed".
- * The Hebrew word for "7" was the Jews word for "week" (Heptad). The NIV interprets it literally because the word means "7". All other bibles use the English word - "week".
- * **To explain.** We mostly think of time in units of 10. (10 yrs=decade, centuries, millennium), but Israel always thought of time in units of 7.

- * They called 7 days "a week" like us, but they also referred to 7 years as "a week".
ILL- Gen. 29:27-- Jacob had worked 7 yrs for **Rachel**, but got tricked into marrying **Leah**. **Laban** required Jacob to work another "**week**" (7 yrs) to have **Rachel**.

- * So here, the word "7" (week) refers to 7 years, so Gabriel said God has decreed a time period for dealing with Israel of - "70 - 7's, or 70 weeks of years (70 X 7 years= **490 years.**)

Remember- Daniel was praying and thinking of Jeremiah's prophecy, and knew that the 70 years of captivity in Babylon was soon over, And he hoped Messiah would come and bring His kingdom.

- * And Daniel learned in v25 that **YES**, Cyrus will soon decree that Israel can return and rebuild.
- * But here God says- it will be another 70 - 7's of yrs (490) before I finish My plan with Israel, and Messiah returns to fully restore the nation, spiritually and physically.

And Note- Israel's full restoration was actually much farther away than that, because there is a mystery time period in this vision between the 483 year, and the 490th year. (see chart)

B. GABRIEL DIVIDES THIS 490-YR PERIOD, INTO 3 SMALLER PERIODS. (25, 27)

- * V25 speaks of "7 - 7's" (wks of yrs)= **49 years**, and "62 - 7's" (wks of yrs)- $62 \times 7 =$ **434 years**.
- * Then-- vs 27 speaks of "1 seven", or 1 week of yrs - which equals **7 years**.
- * Overall, this shows Daniel there is a **49 yr period**, **434 yr period**, and another **7 yr period**.
- * And at each one of these points in Israel's history, significant events will happen for them, that finally lead up to Christ's 2nd coming to fully restore the nation.

C. GABRIEL LISTS WHAT HAPPENS, AS THIS 490 YR TIME PERIOD ENDS. (24)

- * God has decreed 490 years for Him to finish His spiritual and physical work with Israel in history, and it culminates with Messiah coming to fully restore the nation, and set up His kingdom.
- * Gabriel lists 6 distinct things that the OT taught Messiah will do. (In NT-- Rev 19- 21)
(These things not only affect Israel, but will fully affect the whole world.)

1. When Christ returns, He will "finish the TRANSGRESSION". (24)

- The word "transgression" is- defiant rebellion. This is 1 of 3 sins Daniel confessed for the nation, and rebellion rightly describes Israel's history from their beginning until now.
- In wilderness- they grumbled against Moses, and Korah led a rebellion against Moses- Aaron.
- They wouldn't enter the land, so God said that whole generation would die in the wilderness.
- Then they rebelled and tried to enter the land in their own strength, and miserably failed.

- Later, when they took the land, they rebelled against God's decree to destroy all their enemies.
- Then, they drifted from God, and were rebellious during the times of the Judges.

- As the kings ruled, they did okay for a short time, but most of the kings were wicked and led the nation into idolatry, and God had to send Assyria and Babylon to take them away.

- Now, Cyrus will let them return to the land and will provide for them. But the vast majority rebelled and wouldn't return; So over time, God drove them all over the then-known world.
- Finally, when Jesus came proving He was Messiah, unbelievably, they even murdered Him.

Today, God is bringing them back to the land to fulfill end-times prophecy, but they're still in rebellion. 80% don't believe in a literal Messiah, and orthodox Jews reject Jesus completely.

@ But when Jesus comes again, He will open their eyes, **turn them from their rebellion**, and bring them to believe, submit, and follow Him as their true Messiah. **(Zech 12:10)**

2. When Christ returns, He will- "put an end to sin". (24) (Daniel confessed this)

- The word for "sin" means- "to miss the mark"- (failure to reach a goal)
- Israel was chosen by God to testify to the world of God's righteousness and grace.
- But they miserably failed. They came close to God's desires during David's reign and Solomon's early years, but Solomon brought idolatry and pagan wickedness into Israel.
- God often chastened them to bring them back to meet God's standard and purpose for them, but over and over again, they fell short and failed to honor God in the world.
- When Jesus came, He confronted and rebuked their utter failure to demonstrate God's holiness and His way of salvation from sin, but they rejected His rebukes.
- But when Jesus returns, He will give Israel a new heart to cause them to live righteously, and they will completely glorify God. (**Jer. 32:37-39,** Ez. 36:34-36, 11:19,)

3. When Christ returns, He will- "atone for wickedness". (24)

- The word "wickedness" refers to making something crooked, or perverted.
- Israel had terribly perverted God's truth, and even after they returned to the land, over time, they perverted the law and the ceremonies into a man-made religion of works.
- They so badly twisted God's law, that when Jesus came, no group in Judaism understood the truth of the OT, which is- Messiah would die for sin, and salvation is by grace.
- And sadly, their falsehood has continued right up to our modern day.
- Gabriel showed that when Jesus returns, atonement will be made for their 'crookedness'.
- Jesus made atonement for sin at the cross, but His payment for sin is not applied to a person until they personally repent and receive it by yielding to Christ.
- In the tribulation, Israel will be deceived into thinking antichrist is their Christ,
 - But the Lord will awaken them spiritually to receive Jesus as their Savior and Lord, and the Holy Spirit will apply Christ's atonement to forgive their perversion.

(Jeremiah 31:33, Ezekiel 37:23-24,)

4. When Christ returns, He will- "bring in everlasting righteousness". (24)

- As Jesus returns and ends Israel's rebellion and spiritual failure, and draws them to Himself to repent and believe in Him, the result will be "everlasting righteousness".
- The righteousness they experienced during short times in their history, will become permanent, and it will also be a reality throughout the whole world-- **for 5 reasons.**

a. At Christ's return, all living Jews will turn to Christ and be saved. (Rom 11:25-27)

b. All those entering Christ's kingdom from the tribulation, will already be saved.

, At the beginning of the tribulation, God will save and seal 144,000 Jewish witnesses who will go throughout the world and win multitudes to Christ from every nation.

, Many of those believers will be killed for their faith by the antichrist, but those who survive, will enter Christ's kingdom as born-again believers. (Rev 7)

c. The glorified saints will be in the kingdom. (Rev 19:11-16)

, These will the ones taken in the rapture from the church age, who return with Christ from heaven, who will be completely righteous, to live in Christ's kingdom.

, We'll have glorified bodies, be absent of our sinful nature, and be unable to sin.

d. Satan and his demons will be absent.

, When Jesus arrives on earth, He will throw them in the bottomless pit for 1000 years.

, They won't be able to tempt, manipulate, or propagate sin in any way. (Rev 20:1-3)

e. The Lord Jesus will rule the world by enforcing complete righteousness.

, Today, the presence of the Holy Spirit and Christians in the world, restrains and reduces the flow of sin, but sin is still very free to express itself through a lost world.

, And as the tribulation begins, Christians will have been removed in the rapture, and the Holy Spirit's job of restraining sin in the world, will be put on hold. (2 Thes 2:1-12)

, This will allow antichrist (false prophet) to lead the world into extreme wickedness.

, But at Jesus' return, He will destroy the lost, and enforce 100% righteousness, so that people will be fully restrained from express it. (**Jer. 23:5-6**, Rev 19:15, Isa 11:1-5,)

At this point --- Gabriel has told Daniel -- when Messiah returns He will ---

1. Stops their rebellion,
2. Put an end to their failure,
3. Forgives their sin,
4. and bring in everlasting righteousness as He rules His kingdom

5. When Christ returns, He will- "seal up vision and prophecy". (24)

- Throughout Israel's history, God used visions and prophecies to reveal truth to the world through His nation- Israel, and His godly prophets, and the NT Apostles.
- In the church age, vision and prophecy stopped when the Apostles completed the bible.
- But in the tribulation, God will once again prophesy through 2 great witnesses. (Rev 11:3-6)
But after Christ returns, there will be no more need for vision and prophecy.
- The word for "seal up" has 2 closely related meanings. It means - "to fulfill" and "to end".
- When Jesus returns, the ultimate message of all God's prophecies in history will be completely fulfilled and prophecy will end.

(That message is- God is holy, Man is a sinner, Jesus is the Lord, Savior, and Ruler)

Q- (J. Phil) "All that the prophets foretold of both comings of Christ will be fulfilled. History will put its seal on all prophecy, Unbelief will be silenced, and God's Word will be universally acclaimed as completely true."

Q- From Christ's return forward, the fulness of His Person and Truth will be known everywhere, with no more need for any type of prophecies to reveal more truth.

Hab. 2:14- For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (1 Cor 13:9, 12, Jer. 31:33-34)

(Note- The bible is God's complete truth. There is no new revelation being given today. If today's 'prophets' agree with scripture I don't need them, if they don't, I don't want them)

6. When Christ returns, He will-- "anoint the most holy". (24)

- The phrase "The most holy"-- is a non-personal term that speaks of an item or place.
- Most theologians agree this refers to Israel's Temple that will exist in Christ's kingdom.
- In Daniel's time, Nebuchadnezzar had destroyed their temple, years earlier, but Cyrus allowed them to return and rebuild it, so they could worship there.

- Once it was rebuilt, they worshipped there many years, and when Rome came in, Herod did a remodel that made the Temple one of the wonders of the world.
- But through the late OT, they had already defiled that temple by embracing the falsehood that their religious works earned salvation, and they also turned it into a den of thieves.
- The Jews don't have a Temple now, the last one was destroyed in 70 AD by the Romans.

- In the 1st half of the tribulation, antichrist will let Israel rebuild their temple and worship there.
- But in the middle of his 7-year agreement to protect them, he will gain worldwide authority, stop their worship, and defile their temple by proclaiming himself to be God. (v27)
(like Antiochus IV did, 230 bc- ch. 8)
- But when Christ returns, He will destroy the antichrist and the temple he defiled, have a new Temple built, and **anoint** it (consecrate it), for the Jews to worship there for the right reason- which is to honor and glorify Christ for His saving work.

(God gave Ezekiel a vision of this new Temple in Ezekiel 40-48).

Concl: Gabriel has described to Daniel that before Messiah comes to set up His kingdom, there will be a period of 490 years that stretches long into the future,

--- which will actually be even longer as God inserts the church age into that timeline because of Israel's sin of rejecting their Messiah.

@@ As we continue, we will see 3 things demonstrated over and over---

God's **great love** for Israel, And God's **great patience** with their sin and failure to honor Him.
God's **great faithfulness** to keep His eternal promises to them.

God is still on the throne, and Israel is still His earthly chosen people whom He loves, and He's not finished with them yet,
and in the end, He will fully restore them, and give them His kingdom.

