

Intro: In Daniel so far we saw 4 visions God sent to Him/ Neb. about the future. (Accurate)

In Ch. 9 Daniel was praying for Israel, knowing they would soon return to their land, and the angel Gabriel arrived to give him God's answer about these things, in another vision.

- * Starting in v24, Gabriel told Daniel that God had determined an overall time period of 490 years to accomplish His purposes with the Jews, and their Holy city, Jerusalem.
- * Gabriel gave this time period in the ancient Jewish way, using the word "7" or "week" to refer to a group of 7 years. So he says- "70 - 7's"- or- "70 wks" of yrs are determined = 490 yrs.
- * Gabriel also showed that this time period would end with Messiah's return to fulfill OT prophecy and completely restore Israel, physically and spiritually, as He brought in His kingdom.
- * Now, after Gabriel described this overall time period of God's dealing with Israel, he began to divide this larger period of 490 yrs, into **4 smaller time periods** in Israel's future that would bring significant events at each interval, for the nation.
- * So the 2nd main point of Gabriels message to Daniel is in vs 25, where he describes --

II. THE SEVEN WEEK - AND - THE SIXTY-TWO WEEK TIME PERIODS. (v25- read)

- * To define- the 1st time period is "7- 7's" or literally- 7 periods of 7 years. $7 \times 7 = 49$ years.
- * The 2nd time period is- "62- 7's", or literally 62 periods of 7 years. $62 \times 7 = 434$ years.
- * So v25 describes 2 time periods, 1 is **49 years** and the other **434 years**, and he tells Daniel of **3 significant things** that will happen for Israel in regard to these segments of time.

A. THERE WILL BE A "DECREE TO RESTORE AND REBUILD JERUSALEM." (25a-read)

- * It's important to see 2 things about this decree.

1. This decree starts the clock ticking on Israel's future.

- Notice, Gabriel says- "**FROM** the decree.." so this informs Daniel that the overall 490 year time period of Israel's future, begins when this particular decree is given.
- And from that point, several events will take place at these smaller intervals of time.

2. Vs. 25 shows this decree will be about rebuilding Jerusalem.

- The first part of the verse says this is-- "the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem".
 - The last part of the verse shows it will include rebuilding "the streets and the trench".
 - In history, there were 4 decrees given by Cyrus and later by Artaxerxes, about Israel's returning to their land to rebuild.
 - The first 3 were declarations allowing the Jews to rebuild the Temple itself.
 - But the final decree was given years later by Artaxerxes to Nehemiah on March 14th, 445 b.c. which sent more Jews back to Israel, to rebuild **the city and its walls**. (Neh. 2:1-8)
- * It's from this important decree in history that Daniel is told to "know and understand", to start counting down the 490 years (70 wks) that complete Israel's history., and to watch for the events Gabriel lists, that will take place as time moves on.

The 2nd thing Gabriel tells Daniel about these time periods is-----

B. THE REBUILDING OF JERUSALEM WILL BE COMPLETE IN 7 WEEKS (49 yrs) (25c)

- * Notice in the verse- Gabriel mentions the 7-week and the 62-week periods together 1st, then in the last phrase, he refers back to and comments on, the **7-week** period.
- * Simply put, Daniel was told that in 7 weeks of years (in 49 yrs) from Artaxerxes decree to rebuild Jerusalem, 2 things will be true regarding the city.

1. Jerusalem "will be rebuilt with streets and a trench". (25c) (meaning- it's completed)

- The word "streets" is "broad places", referring to all the city squares where the markets were.
- The "trench" was a deep moat they dug outside the city walls that Nehemiah had rebuilt, which made it almost impossible for enemies to scale the city walls. (water?)

2. Daniel was also told - the city would be completed "in times of trouble". (25c)

- Both Ezra 9-10 and Nehemiah 4,6,9,13 show that Israel's enemies troubled them during the whole rebuilding project of the Temple, the initial wall, the moat, and the inner city.

In perfect fulfillment- history records that 49 years after the king's decree in 445 BC to rebuild the city, Jerusalem was completed in 396 BC, the same year Malachi finished the OT.
(Again, God's prophecy was perfect)

C. THEIR MESSIAH WILL PRESENT HIMSELF TO ISRAEL IN 69 WEEKS. (25a-b- READ)

- * Gabriel now takes the 7-7's, (**49 yrs**), and the 62-7's (**434 yrs**), and adds them together, which brings us to **483 years** after the decree is given to Nehemiah to rebuild the city.
- * And Gabriel says that at this point - "the Anointed One, the Ruler" comes (Messiah).
- * In the past, Robert Anderson (Scot. yrd) and Dr. Hoehner (Dallas Seminary), used a Jewish calendar (variables), and calculated forward from the king's decree on March 14, 445 BC, to 483 years later, and they arrived at April 6th 32 ad. (173,880 days later)
- @ That exact date was **Palm Sunday**, during Passover week, when Jesus was killed on Friday.
- * On Palm Sunday, the Jews held a yearly parade, with a Jewish man acting as Messiah, riding a donkey into town, to point ahead to Messiah's coming to fulfill Zech. 9:9. (**Mt. 21:1-9**)
- * On this day, the Jews thought this was just another yearly Passover parade, but in fact, the Man on the donkey was actually their true Messiah, being formally presented to them, after 3 years of public ministry, and countless miracles to prove who He really was.
- * But as Jesus rode in, the people only praised Him as the 1 representing the Messiah, and the religious leaders rebelled, telling Jesus to rebuke them for calling Him - "the Son of David."
- * And when the Lord entered the city, Jewish visitors from around the Empire asked who Jesus was, and in v10-11, the local populace told them- He's the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.
- * And because the religious leaders and the people didn't recognize Him as their real Messiah as He presented Himself fulfilling prophecy, Jesus said this to them in **Luke 19:41-42**.
- * In v42, when Jesus spoke of "**THIS DAY**", He was literally referring to **THE DAY** prophesied through Daniel, that Israel's true "anointed Ruler" would formally present Himself to them.
- * Then in v43-44 Jesus pronounced future judgment on the nation, and said this would happen - "because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."
- * For all the knowledge of Israel's leaders, they failed to understand what Gabriel told Daniel, and to calculate the time (the day) when their true Messiah would actually present Himself.

Sum- On that day, Jesus didn't arrange to be the man on the donkey, on a whim.
He did so to fulfill Daniel's prophecy, because THIS WAS HIS DAY. (the Jews missed it)

III. THE PERIOD OF TIME, "AFTER THE 62 WEEKS". (v26- read) (look at chart)

- * In v25 Gabriel gave the 7 wk period (49 yrs) and 62 wk period (434 yrs)= 69 wks or 483 years.
- * But he starts v26 by saying--- "**AFTER** the 62 sevens" (or weeks),
and he doesn't speak about the last week (the last 7 years) until vs 27.
- * Then he goes on in v26 to list 3 things that happen AFTER the end of the 69th week,
and before the 70th week, which starts in v27.

Note- If the 3 time periods He gave ran together, 1 right after the other (49, 434, 7), the 490 years
would have been up in 39 AD, and Messiah would have come to restore the nation.
But that didn't happen.

- * **SO** in v26, at the end of 483 yrs, Gabriel inserts an unknown time period between the 69th week in v25, and the 70th week in v27 (the last 7 years before Messiah comes- Trib)

Also note that what happens in v26 is carried out by- "**the people** of the ruler who will come".

- * During this time, this "ruler" isn't in the world yet. Gabriel says-- "he is to come".
- * But he will have people here who-- "destroy the city and sanctuary". Who are they?
 - Nebuchadnezzar's ch. 2 dream, shows the largest and last world Empire would be Rome,
And Jesus and the Apostles lived and ministered in the Roman Empire.
 - And vs 26 describes exactly what the Romans did to Israel just a few decades
after they rejected Jesus and blackmailed Pilate into crucifying Him. (more later)

The point is- Gabriel revealed in Vs 26, that an unknown period of time will come between
the 69th and 70th weeks where certain events will happen with Israel.

- * And if you haven't figured it out yet, we are in that time period. It's the church age.
- * It's the unknown time period between Christ's 1st coming to die, and 2nd coming to reign.

- * To understand more about this unknown time period - we'll answer 2 questions;

A. IS THIS UNKNOWN TIME PERIOD VERIFIED BY OTHER SCRIPTURE?

B. WHY DID GOD PUT ISRAEL ON HOLD AT THE 483 YR. MARK? (in 32 AD)

A. IS THIS UNKNOWN TIME PERIOD VERIFIED BY OTHER SCRIPTURE?

- * The OT and NT both speak of this pause where God would place Israel on hold in His dealings with them, until far into the future when the tribulation comes.

1. Prophecies about Christ reveals this. (Isa. 9:6-7, Lk 1:31-33, Zech. 9:9-10, Isa 61:1-3)

- These prophecies show an unknown gap between Christ's 1st and 2nd coming.

2. Paul revealed this time period as "the mystery". (Eph 3:1-6, 1:9, 2:14-20)

- The mystery was the truth that God would postpone his dealings with Israel, and would save Gentiles, and form the church to carry the gospel to the world.
- The Jews became so self-righteous, they cared little at all for the salvation of Gentiles, but Isaiah wrote that salvation was for all, and Paul wrote about the fulfillment of that.

Isa 45:21-22-- "There is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth;" (49:6)

(Eph 3:7-10, Gal 3:28-29)

3. Jesus, revealed this time period.

- In Acts 1:7, forty days after Jesus' resurrection as He was about to ascend back to heaven, his men asked Him about the kingdom, And He said---

"It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- This is why Jesus and Paul said "the day of the Lord comes as a thief in the night".

(The Day of the Lord is God intervening in history to Judge the world. He did so in the OT, And at the end of the church age, He brings His final "day of the Lord" as He directly intervenes in the world, raptures the church, places many judgments on the world for sin, draws many to repent, and fully restores Israel when Jesus returns after the tribulation.)

- And that Day of the Lord comes unexpectedly as a thief, because God alone knows how long the church age will last, and when Jesus will rapture the church

(Mat 24:36, 1 Thes 5:1-2)

B. WHY DID GOD PUT ISRAEL ON HOLD AT THE 483 YR. MARK? (in 32 AD)

1. God put them on hold- to discipline them for fully rejecting their Messiah.

- This is Israel's "time out" (parents). God put them in the corner with their nose to the wall, for their constant rebellious ongoing disobedience, and then finally killing their Messiah.
- God patiently worked with them and through them for centuries,
- He blessed and helped them when they obeyed, disciplined them when they rebelled, and He forgave and restored them when they repented.
- But 2000 yrs ago, they committed the ultimate spiritual crime of killing their long-awaited Messiah, so God chose to discipline them for the rest of history as we know it.
- There are only 2 prophetic things God does with Israel during this time.

a. God promised to scatter them, and allow them to suffer persecution.

, Over time, the Jews were scattered to most countries in the ancient world, and have been persecuted to some degree in most all those countries.

b. God promised to make them a nation again, just before Christ returns.

, (**Ezek. 37:21-22**, 28:25, 34:11ff, 36:24, Isa 65:9-10; Jer 23:3)

, They began to return early in 1900's, and became a nation again in 1948. (77yrs) and they're being persecuted there.

2. God put them on hold - because they forfeited their usefulness.

- God chose Abraham to form Israel for the privilege of showing God's glory and grace to the world to save humankind from sin, but they miserably failed to be that witness.
- So God "benched" them. God sat them on the sidelines, and took away their privilege to participate in being God's witness to the world.
- This is exactly what Jesus told them in **Mat 23:37-39** (if time-- 29-39).
- The word "left" means "laid aside", the word "desolate" means- 'wasted, with no value'.
- Jesus said this to Israel's leaders in front of a massive crowd in the temple, just a few days after presenting Himself to the nation on Palm Sunday, and then being rejected.
- In this chapter, Jesus fully condemned their leaders sin, and told them and the people that their final rejection of Him meant God would use them no longer.

- God not only disciplined them to the end of time as we know it, He also **removed** them from being God's witness in the world, until the end of time as we know it.
- And Christ then replaced them with the church (all born again believers) and commissioned us to be God's witnesses of His Glory and Grace to save lost sinners, through Christ.

3. God put them on hold - To crush their pride.

- The Jews had enjoyed God's miraculous blessings in their early delivery from Egypt, in their conquering of the land, and many times in their ongoing life as a nation.
- But in those blessings, they became arrogant, and came to believe God would never chasten them for disobedience, like Moses promised in Deut. 28.
- Read Jeremiah and Ezekiel and see that time and again, Israel and Judah denied that God would judge them, or was judging them for their sin.

Jer 6:10-14-- "To whom can I speak and give warning? Who will listen to me? Their ears are closed so they cannot hear. The word of the LORD is offensive to them; they find no pleasure in it. But I am full of the wrath of the LORD, and I cannot hold it in.

"From the least to the greatest, all are greedy for gain; prophets and priests alike, all practice deceit. They dress the wound of my people as though it were not serious. 'Peace, peace,' they say, when there is no peace.

- When Jesus arrived, To humble them, He and John refused to identify with the arrogant leaders, and they rejected Christ's miracles as proof He was Messiah, rejected His pure teaching on the law, and finally murdered Him.
- In the end, God will use antichrist to bring a final crushing of their pride during the tribulation, then He will turn the hearts of those who are left (1/3rd) and save them for the kingdom.

Concl- This must have discouraged Daniel; Judgment always does, but Daniel grew up when Israel was in eminent danger of God's chastening, and at 15, he experienced it 1st hand.

- * Today, People hate to hear of God's judgment on sin, but our world needs that message.
- * Our God is holy and He judge's sin, either in Christ, or in sinners who refuse to repent.
- * And today, the Lord is spreading the gospel through the church and patiently waiting for people to repent and be saved.