



Daniel's Vision Of  
**THE 70 WEEKS**

Wednesday Night Bible Study  
THE BOOK OF DANIEL

March 14, 2018

First Assembly of God / Fort Myers, Florida  
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# THE PROPHECIES OF DANIEL STATESMAN FOR THE AGES

*Session Nine / Chapter Nine*

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

## THE SEVENTY WEEKS

1 Today we study Daniel's third vision. His first came (ch. 7) in the first year Belshazzar  
2 was regent prince of Babylon. The second vision (ch. 8) came in the third year of  
3 Belshazzar's rulership. Now...Babylon has fallen to the Medes and Persians. The year  
4 is about 536 B.C. Once again, God visits Daniel with a supernatural insight:  
5

6 Daniel 9:1

7 **In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which**  
8 **was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans;**  
9

10 We learned last week that after the second vision, the great prophet Daniel was left weak  
11 and in an actual faint. Daniel 8:27 **And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days;**  
12 **afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision,**  
13 **but none understood it.** We would probably all faint if we knew how close the end  
14 time might be. But now, Daniel is going to receive word from God about the timing  
15 from "then" to "now."  
16

### A WORD FROM JEREMIAH

17  
18  
19 Daniel 9:2

20 **In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the**  
21 **years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would**  
22 **accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.**  
23

24 Daniel by now is in his 80's. He has seen the fall of Jerusalem under Nebuchadnezzar,  
25 the Babylonian, many years before when he himself was taken as a captive away from his  
26 beloved Jerusalem. Now he has seen first-hand the fall of Babylon and the rise of the  
27 Medo-Persian Empire. He is wondering about the future, no doubt.  
28

29 He remembers that Jeremiah prophesied that the Jewish captivity would last for 70 years.  
30 Doing some quick math, Daniel realizes that the exile time is just about over. From his  
31 previous vision of the "little horn" (ch. 8), Daniel understood full well the danger of the

1 future years for Israel. Especially in light of Jeremiah’s warning long before: Jeremiah  
2 25:11 **And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these**  
3 **nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.** But Daniel also remembered  
4 Jeremiah’s happier prophecy: Jeremiah 29:10 **For thus saith the Lord, That after**  
5 **seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good**  
6 **word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.**

7  
8 Could it possibly be? Could the Jews actually return to the pleasant hills of Judea?  
9 Could Jerusalem once again be a real place for them? This possibility drove “the  
10 praying man” Daniel to his knees:

11  
12 Daniel 9:3-4

13 **And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with**  
14 **fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes: [4] And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and**  
15 **made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the**  
16 **covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his**  
17 **commandments;**

18  
19 Daniel had not forgotten his spiritual roots. The prayer he sends to God now comes  
20 from the soul and heart of the man. “Supplications” means “to pray humbly.”  
21 Remember, this prayer is coming from the magnificent prophet Daniel, the counselor to  
22 kings, the spiritual leader of his nation; yet his prayer was a humble supplication. He is  
23 down on his face before God. He understood Jeremiah’s words, Lament. 3:22: **It is of**  
24 **the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.**

25  
26 Note well the prayer of this man:

27  
28 Daniel 9:5-6

29 **[We] have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have**  
30 **rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments: [6] Neither**  
31 **have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our**  
32 **kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.**

33  
34 Note how Daniel uses the word “we,” including himself as a sinner before God. He lists  
35 the sins that brought Israel into the Babylonian captivity seventy years earlier: rebellion,  
36 disobedience and a refusal to listen to God’s prophets. Daniel was specific when listing  
37 the sins of Israel and himself. It was a frank and open confession.

38  
39 Daniel 9:7

40 **O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at**

1 **this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all**  
2 **Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast**  
3 **driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.**  
4

5 What an interesting phrase in that verse: *“Unto all Israel, that are near and that are far*  
6 *off...”* The Jews were scattered over a great part of the near East. Some were in  
7 Babylon along with Daniel while others were still back in Judea. Why were they  
8 scattered? *“Thou has driven them because of their trespass.”*  
9

10 Daniel 9:8-14

11 **O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our**  
12 **fathers, because we have sinned against thee. [9] To the Lord our God belong**  
13 **mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him; [10] Neither have**  
14 **we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us**  
15 **by his servants the prophets. [11] Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by**  
16 **departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us,**  
17 **and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have**  
18 **sinned against him. [12] And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against**  
19 **us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for**  
20 **under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem. [13]**  
21 **As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our**  
22 **prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and**  
23 **understand thy truth. [14] Therefore hath the Lord watched upon the evil, and**  
24 **brought it upon us: for the Lord our God is righteous in all his works which he**  
25 **doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.**  
26

27 As I read verse 12 it seems to say to me that we have really no idea of the catastrophe  
28 embodied in the Babylonian takeover of Israel in 586 BC: *“Under the whole heaven*  
29 *hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.”*  
30

31 Daniel did not blame God for the Jews situation. He blamed himself and his people.  
32 He put the fault right where it belonged. Daniel was asking for MERCY! So should  
33 we all.  
34

35 Daniel 9:15-18

36 **And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of**  
37 **Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have**  
38 **sinned, we have done wickedly. [16] O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I**  
39 **beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem,**  
40 **thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers,**

1 **Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us. [17] Now**  
2 **therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and**  
3 **cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake. [18]**  
4 **O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations,**  
5 **and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications**  
6 **before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.**

7  
8 Daniel recalls the gift of liberty given the Jews by God as He directed Moses in their  
9 deliverance. Daniel is repulsed by the fact that despite all His mercy to the people, they  
10 turned on Him. Why did God deliver them in the first place? He remembered His  
11 covenant with Abraham: Exodus 2:24-25 **And God heard their groaning, and God**  
12 **remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. [25] And God**  
13 **looked upon the children of Israel, and God had respect unto them.**

14  
15 Now, requests Daniel, please deliver our people once again! After these 70 years in  
16 exile, send us home!

17  
18 Daniel 9:19

19 **O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own**  
20 **sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.**

21  
22 Can you feel some of the passion in Daniel's prayer? This was not some cold, recited  
23 prayer repeated at a preacher's request. Does God answer it?

24  
25 Daniel 9:20-21

26 **And whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my**  
27 **people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy**  
28 **mountain of my God; [21] Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man**  
29 **Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly,**  
30 **touched me about the time of the evening oblation.**

31  
32 Do you remember when Daniel's enemies were trying to find fault in him so they could  
33 accuse him before the king? They could not find any negative thing in the prophet:  
34 Daniel 6:4 **Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel**  
35 **concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as**  
36 **he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him.** Yet Daniel knew  
37 that in the sight of God he was a sinner just as everyone else. Daniel 9:20: Daniel  
38 confessed his sin (underlined on line 26). Daniel knew full well what the Apostle Paul  
39 would later write: Romans 3:23 **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of**  
40 **God;**

1 Now Daniel is going to hear from God....and what a messenger! None other than  
2 Gabriel himself! And what a message the grand angel has to tell:

3  
4 Daniel 9:22-23

5 **And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come**  
6 **forth to give thee skill and understanding. [23] At the beginning of thy supplications**  
7 **the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly**  
8 **beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.**

9  
10 It is interesting to try to figure out how long Daniel had been praying before the angel  
11 appeared to him. One commentator has read this prayer of Daniel in Hebrew and timed  
12 it out to three minutes. Does that mean it took Gabriel three minutes to get to Daniel  
13 from wherever he was? I don't think so. Remember what Isaiah wrote: Isaiah 65:24  
14 **And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet**  
15 **speaking, I will hear.** That's a powerful verse! Now hang on for here it comes, the  
16 prophecy of the SEVENTY WEEKS.

17  
18 Daniel 9:24

19 **Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish**  
20 **the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for**  
21 **iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and**  
22 **prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.**

23  
24 Keen Bible scholars agree that the seventy sevens should be understood as seventy weeks  
25 of years. In other words - a period of 490 years. How do we know this? First, the  
26 word that was translated as "weeks" is the word "heptad," which means a "group of  
27 sevens." Daniel has already been praying in terms of years (verse 1 from Jeremiah, the  
28 length of the exile measured in YEARS). These verses are given to us as a kind of time  
29 table to give us an idea when Messiah would come to Bethlehem and some of the events  
30 that would accompany His appearance.

31  
32 Let's look at the rest of Gabriel's message before we start to unravel it:

33  
34 Daniel 9:25-27

35 **Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to**  
36 **restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and**  
37 **threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in**  
38 **troublous times. [26] And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off,**  
39 **but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city**  
40 **and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the**

1 **war desolations are determined. [27] And he shall confirm the covenant with many**  
2 **for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the**  
3 **oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it**  
4 **desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the**  
5 **desolate.**

6  
7 These startling prophecies show a six-fold purpose of God in bringing certain events to  
8 occur. Verse 24:

- 9 • to finish transgression
- 10 • to put an end to sin
- 11 • to atone for wickedness
- 12 • to bring in everlasting righteousness
- 13 • to seal up the vision and prophecy
- 14 • to anoint the most holy

15  
16 These are events that had to happen before the second coming of Christ and the setting up  
17 of his 1000-year millennial kingdom on earth. The third blessing was “to atone for  
18 wickedness” which Jesus did on the cross. Romans 3:25 **Whom God hath set forth**  
19 **to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the**  
20 **remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;**

## 21 22 THE PROPHETIC CLOCK

23  
24 Gabriel announced that this timing would begin when an decree was issued to rebuild  
25 Jerusalem (destroyed by the Babylonians 70 years earlier ( 586 B.C.) From the time of  
26 that decree to the time of Messiah would 483 years. So when was that decree issued?  
27 Neh. 2:1-8 445 BC

28 **And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the**  
29 **king, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king.**  
30 **Now I had not been beforetime sad in his presence. [2] Wherefore the king said unto**  
31 **me, Why is thy countenance sad, seeing thou art not sick? this is nothing else but**  
32 **sorrow of heart. Then I was very sore afraid, [3] And said unto the king, Let the king**  
33 **live for ever: why should not my countenance be sad, when the city, the place of my**  
34 **fathers' sepulchres, lieth waste, and the gates thereof are consumed with fire? [4]**  
35 **Then the king said unto me, For what dost thou make request? So I prayed to the**  
36 **God of heaven. [5] And I said unto the king, If it please the king, and if thy servant**  
37 **have found favour in thy sight, that thou wouldest send me unto Judah, unto the city**  
38 **of my fathers' sepulchres, that I may build it. [6] And the king said unto me, (the**  
39 **queen also sitting by him,) For how long shall thy journey be? and when wilt thou**  
40 **return? So it pleased the king to send me; and I set him a time. [7] Moreover I said**

1 **unto the king, If it please the king, let letters be given me to the governors beyond the**  
2 **river, that they may convey me over till I come into Judah; [8] And a letter unto**  
3 **Asaph the keeper of the king's forest, that he may give me timber to make beams for**  
4 **the gates of the palace which appertained to the house, and for the wall of the city,**  
5 **and for the house that I shall enter into. And the king granted me, according to the**  
6 **good hand of my God upon me.**

7  
8 69 prophetic weeks – We know the exact date historically when the Jews of Israel were  
9 freed to return to their homeland: 445 B.C.

10  
11 **NOTE: IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT IN DANIEL'S RECKONING A YEAR CONTAINED 360 DAYS, NOT 365. THIS WAS JEWISH TRADITION. For example, we read in Rev. 11:3: And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. This was 1260 days based on a 360-day year.**

12  
13 So - how did this prophecy work out? The 69 weeks from the time of the Persian's decree  
14 to Nehemiah until the time of Jesus entry into Jerusalem was 483 years (of 360-day years).  
15 So in Daniel 9, Daniel was told there would someday come a command from a foreignking  
16 for the Jews to return to Jerusalem and to rebuild it. Furthermore, 483 years later  
17 following (to the day) Messiah would triumphantly enter Jerusalem, the Holy City. Now  
18 since the decree to rebuild Jerusalem came in 445 B.C., and we add 483 years to that, the  
19 projection puts us right into the adult years of Christ's earthly life.

20  
21 Let's break this prophecy down:

- 22
- 23 ✓ Daniel prophesied that the Messiah would come 173,880 days after the Persian  
24 ruler's decree (69 prophetic weeks x 7 - each week being a 7 year time span. That  
25 gives you 483 years times 360 days = 173,880 days. Daniel wrote that 173,880  
26 days following Artaxerxes' command to rebuild Jerusalem, the Messiah would  
27 enter the Holy City in triumph. The actual day of the Persian's decree was March  
28 14, 445 B.C. (2,463 years ago - today!) Jesus came into the city of Jerusalem  
29 on April 6, AD 32. Zechariah told us in his 9<sup>th</sup> chapter that the time of Messiah  
30 would begin on the day that Jesus rode into the Holy City and was proclaimed King  
31 by the Jews.
  - 32
  - 33 ✓ Was Daniel accurate? Both Jesus and John the Baptist began their ministries  
34 during the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar. Luke 3 tells us that. We  
35 know that Tiberius began his reign in AD 14. Our Lord then began His ministry



1 in AD 29. We know that Jesus continued His ministry for 3 years prior to the  
2 triumphant entry. That puts us up to AD 32. In John 12:1 we learn that our Lord  
3 went to Bethany six days before the Passover. Passover is always celebrated on  
4 the 14<sup>th</sup> Nisan, which was Thursday, April 10, AD 32, according to the Royal  
5 Observatory. Passover, the day our Lord died, was Thursday April 10, AD 32.  
6 So our Lord would have come to Bethany six days earlier, April 4. The meal with  
7 Lazarus would have been a Sabbath ( Saturday ) meal, so our Lord entered  
8 Jerusalem on Sunday, April 6, AD 32. Now if Daniel's prophecy in chapter 9 is  
9 accurate, there should have been 173,880 days between Artaxerxe's decree in 445  
10 BC and Jesus' triumphant entry. Can the Bible really be that accurate?  
11

12 ✓ From March 14, 445 BC to April 6, AD 32 is 477 years and 24 days. But we have  
13 to deduct ONE FULL YEAR because was not judged on the basis of, "Well, this is  
14 1 BC and the next year will be 0." There was no 0 gap there. Historically there is  
15 a year technically missing between 1 BC and 1 AD. Therefore, a year must be  
16 deducted, now giving us 476 years and 24 days. Today we count 365 days in the  
17 Julian calendar. So we multiply 476 x 365 and that gives us 173,740 days, plus we  
18 add the 24 other days for a total of 173,764. Now....Daniel is within 116 days of  
19 being "on the nose". Not close enough. What are we forgetting? We must  
20 remember the fact of leap year every four years. From Artaxerxes' decree to  
21 Jesus' triumphal procession there were 119 leap years. So we add another 119  
22 days to our total which gives us 173,883 days. Now we are three days OVER.  
23 But according to the Royal Observatory our year is about 1/128<sup>th</sup> of a day longer  
24 than the solar year. So now we divide the time between Artaxerxe's decree and  
25 Jesus' entry into Jerusalem by 128 and we have 3 days, which we now deduct from  
26 our previous total. This leaves us an exact total of 173,880 days. Daniel had it  
27 right on!  
28

### 29 BUT WHAT ABOUT THE 70<sup>TH</sup> WEEK?

30  
31 Of the 70 "sevens," 69 have been fulfilled in history. This leaves one more "seven" yet to  
32 be fulfilled. Most scholars believe that we are now living in a huge gap between the 69<sup>th</sup>  
33 week and the 70<sup>th</sup> week. The prophetic clock has been paused. The final "seven" of  
34 Daniel is what we usually refer to as the tribulation period. The 70<sup>th</sup> week has yet to be  
35 fulfilled.  
36

37 Here again is the prophecy of the 70<sup>th</sup> week: Daniel 9:27

38 **And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the**  
39 **week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading**  
40 **of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that**

1 **determined shall be poured upon the desolate.**

2  
3 **THE NATURE OF THE ANTICHRIST EXPOSED!**  
4

5 It is important to understand that the final week (the 70<sup>th</sup>) is a period of seven years and is  
6 projected into the future. It does not follow chronologically the other 69 weeks. It could  
7 be said that we are in that gap of time and it is a time of grace. It is our theology in the  
8 Assemblies of God that the time of grace will end when Jesus raptures His Church into His  
9 presence.

10  
11 1 Thes. 4:13-18 (Living Bible)

12 **And now, dear brothers, I want you to know what happens to a Christian when he**  
13 **dies so that when it happens, you will not be full of sorrow, as those are who have no**  
14 **hope. [14] For since we believe that Jesus died and then came back to life again, we**  
15 **can also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him all the**  
16 **Christians who have died.**

17 **[15] I can tell you this directly from the Lord: that we who are still living when the**  
18 **Lord returns will not rise to meet him ahead of those who are in their graves. [16]**  
19 **For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a mighty shout and with the**  
20 **soul-stirring cry of the archangel and the great trumpet-call of God. And the**  
21 **believers who are dead will be the first to rise to meet the Lord. [17] Then we who**  
22 **are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up with them in the clouds to**  
23 **meet the Lord in the air and remain with him forever. [18] So comfort and encourage**  
24 **each other with this news.**

25  
26 The word “rapture” is derived from the Latin word *raptu* which means “caught away or  
27 caught up.” I Corinthians 15 also deals with this glorious event. Following the rapture,  
28 this world will be slammed globally by the advent of the Antichrist. He comes subtly,  
29 arriving on a peace platform.

30  
31 Rev. 6:1-2

32 **And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise**  
33 **of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. [2] And I saw, and behold a**  
34 **white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and**  
35 **he went forth conquering, and to conquer.**

36  
37 The first four riders described by Jesus are (in order): Antichrist and proposed peace; war;  
38 world-wide famine; and death. According to Jesus, these four creations of hell will kill  
39 one-fourth of the existing world’s population. And Antichrist will become ruler of a  
40 great part of earth. He comes on a peace initiative and quickly shows his demonic spirit

1 and purpose.

2

3 We touched on this back in Daniel 7, his prophecy of the “fourth beast, dreadful and  
4 terrible, and strong exceedingly....” who devoured and broke with his great iron teeth.

5 There are no words that I know to adequately describe the viciousness of Antichrist,  
6 Satan’s false messiah.

7

8 I have spoken about Antichrist many times so will not go into all of this subject again - at  
9 least at this time. One thing I know for sure: I don’t want to be here when he makes his  
10 dreaded appearance. How urgent it is to know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to be  
11 ready for all that lies ahead.

12

13

14

15 Next time we meet: Daniel’s Fourth Vision

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