

Bible Study Notes

Daniel 9: Daniel's Prayer

Chapter 9 :

We are going to skip through much of this chapter because many of the details deal with events directly following Daniel's current time. It points toward the desolation and destruction of Jerusalem and the temple itself by the Roman Emperor Titus in 70 AD, and to the persecutions led by Titus.

v22: the angel Gabriel tells Daniel he will give him "insight and understanding".

v24: "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place". The 'sevens' refers to seven-year periods (some translations have 'weeks' instead of 'sevens'). "Seventy 'sevens'" would refer to a span of 490 years.

v25: Gabriel says "from the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens' (or 69 seven-year periods, which is 483 years). Scholars believe that the prophetic clock would start at the time that a decree was issued to rebuild Jerusalem, which was given by King Artaxerxes of Persia in 445 BC (see Nehemiah 2:1-8). 483 years after that date to the time of the Messiah would be 483 years, which is 30 AD and coincides with Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

v26: After the completion of the 483 years, "the Anointed One will be cut off" or "put to death", which is the crucifixion.

There is a huge time gap in between v26 and 27. Verse 26 is speaking about the past and Jesus' death, and verse 27 is speaking to what is still in our future.

v27: A new ruler will arise (someone connected to Rome in some way as we saw in previous studies). He will make a seven year agreement with the Jews that will allow them to continue their sacrificial practices. However, "in the middle of the 'seven'" (or 3 ½ years into this seven-year agreement), the evil ruler goes back on his word and commits "an abomination that causes desolation". At this point all pretenses of religious tolerance and democratic rule will be dropped and a dictatorial rule will hammer down on the whole earth, especially upon the Jewish people and the believers.