

10 – THE SEVENTY SEVENS (DANIEL 9:1-20)

I. The Occasion for the Dream (9:1-2)

A. The Timing (9:1)

- Daniel has a dream in the first year of Darius' reign, 539 B.C.
- This was 66 years after Daniel was taken into exile to Babylon.
- Darius was the ruler over Babylon.

B. Daniel's understanding (9:2)

- Daniel understood the number of years for the desolation of Jerusalem.
- He understood this through the writings of the prophet Jeremiah.

Scripture Jeremiah 25:11-12

And this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. 'Then it will come to pass, when seventy years are completed, that I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity,' says the Lord; 'and I will make it a perpetual desolation.'

Scripture 2 Chronicles 36:21

to fulfill the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

II. Daniel's Prayer (9:3-19)

A. The decision to pray (9:3)

- Daniel made a firm decision to set himself to pray and fast in humility.

B. The prayer (9:4-19)

1. Acknowledgement (9:4)

- Daniel acknowledges God as great and awesome.
- God is the one who keeps covenant with those who love and obey him.

2. Confession (9:5-15)

- Daniel confesses that they have sinned and departed from God's commandments.
- Daniel confesses that they have not heeded God's prophets.

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- Daniel acknowledges that they have been unfaithful in their actions toward God.
- He acknowledges that the curse that Moses wrote about has been placed upon them.
- The curse placed upon Israel is found in Deuteronomy 28:15-68.
- Daniel acknowledges that God is righteous in all his judgments upon them.
- Again, Daniel confesses that they have sinned against God.

3. Supplication (9:16-19)

- Daniel asks that God's anger would be turned away from Israel.
- Daniel asks God to bless his sanctuary which is desolate.
- Daniel asks God to see the desolation of the Jerusalem and the Temple.
- Daniel asks God to forgive and not delay for Israel's sake.

III. Gabriel Appears to Daniel (9:20-22)

- While Daniel was praying and seeking the Lord, Gabriel appeared to him.
- This was the Gabriel that he had seen in a prior vision (Daniel 8).
- Gabriel came swiftly to Daniel at the time of the evening offering.
- Gabriel told Daniel that he had come to give Daniel understanding.

IV. The Prayer Answered (9:23)

- Gabriel was commanded to go at the beginning of Daniel's supplication.
- Gabriel acknowledges that Daniel is greatly loved.
- Daniel is to consider and understand the vision.

V. The Seventy Weeks (9:24-27)

A. A time determined (9:24)

- Gabriel suggests that the end of the exile would begin a period of seventy "weeks."
- The word "week" can also be translated "sevens" or "week of years."
- The phrase "seventy weeks" of "seventy sevens" is commonly known to mean 490 years.

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- Six actions will take place during the Seventy weeks.
- "To finish the transgression" means Israel's disobedience will be brought to an end.
- "To make an end of sins" means Israel's sin will be removed.
- "To make reconciliation for iniquity" means atonement will be made for Israel's sin.
- "To bring everlasting righteousness" means God will establish an age of righteousness.
- "To seal up vision and prophecy" means all prophecies will find their fulfillment.
- "To anoint the Most Holy" means the enthronement of the Jesus Christ.

B. The first 69 weeks explained (9:25)

- These 69 weeks refer to the time from end of the exile to the coming of the Messiah.
- Jerusalem will be restored at this time during a period of troublesome times.

C. The Messiah cut-off (9:26)

- After the 69 weeks, the Messiah will be cut off for the sake of others.
- After this, the people of "ruler" will come and destroy Jerusalem and the Temple.
- The destruction will be complete and fast like a flood.

D. The Tribulation (9:27)

- The "ruler" will confirm a covenant for a period of one week or seven years.
- The Seventieth week begins with the establishment of the covenant with the "ruler" and Israel.
- In the middle of the seven years, the ruler will stop the Temple operations.
- He shall make the Temple desolate with his abomination.

Scripture

Matthew 24:15-22

“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),
“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house.

And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!

And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath.

For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.

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And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

- The desolation will take place until the "ruler" is destroyed at a determined time.

