

Part 1: In Daniel chapter 9, we read the marvelous prophecy known as, 'The Seventy Weeks of Daniel.' This little 4 verse prophecy is foundational to all prophecy. When we correctly understand this prophecy, we can then have a better understanding of all prophecy. The purpose of prophecy is to not only foretell the future but even more, to prove the Deity, faithfulness, reliability and veracity of God and overall, to prove the truth of Who the Lord Jesus Christ is and what He came to accomplish. When we see prophecy fulfilled, it's impossible to deny the reality of God... only He can foretell the future as He reveals it to His Prophets.

There is nothing 'figurative' about this prophecy or its division into 3 specific periods of time. God is precise, exact and He expects us to 'rightly divide' His Word of Truth so that we understand what He has said. God didn't give prophecy as something unintelligible, something twisted beyond explanation; He gave us His Word and then promised to give us wisdom to understand His Word. He said: *'Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**'* 2 Tim 2:15

If we are faithful to 'rightly divide' His word of truth and to walk accordingly, we will have no cause for shame when we stand before Him one day soon.

Early in this 9th chapter, in verse 2, Daniel wrote: *'In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.'*

Daniel had been taken captive to Babylon where he was lifted up to a high position in Nebuchadnezzar's court. Years later, when Babylon was defeated by the Medes and Persians, Daniel served in the court of Darius the son of Ahasuerus.

Jeremiah had written: *'And this whole land (Israel) shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall **serve the king of Babylon seventy years.** ¹² And it shall come to pass, **when seventy years are accomplished**, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the LORD...'* Jer 25:11

*'For thus saith the LORD, That **after seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place.**'* Jer 29:10

Daniel realized that God was about to begin bringing the Jews back to Jerusalem after 70 years of captivity. As Daniel prayed and confessed the sins of Israel, God sent His angel, Gabriel, to deliver this message:

'O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding. ²³ At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.'

We, also, are *greatly beloved* because of what the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us; and He has promised to give us skill and understanding through His Word; He promised, through James, to freely give us wisdom when we ask so that we, too, like Daniel, can understand the matter and consider the vision. At the end of Daniel's Book, in chapter 12, we read: *'And at that time (the End Times: the Tribulation) shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a **time of trouble, such as never was** since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. ² And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ³ And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.'*

God has promised us that if we will walk in wisdom and be faithful in telling the Gospel, leading others to faith, that we will actually shine as the brightness of the heavens and like the stars, forever and ever! We will brightly shine... like Jesus does in His Glorified, Eternal Body, as we see in Revelation chapter 1. Gabriel continues: *⁴ But thou, O Daniel, **shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased...** (Daniel said): 'And I heard, but I understood not: then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of these things? ⁹ And he said, **Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.** ¹⁰ Many shall be purified, and made white, and tried; but the*

wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; **but the wise shall understand.** ¹¹ **And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days.** (3 1/2 years: 2nd half of the Tribulation) *Blessed is he that waiteth, and cometh to the thousand three hundred and five and thirty days.* ¹³ *But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.'*

Many discount this prophecy, as they do prophecy regarding the Rapture; they tie themselves in knots in the effort to deny what God's Word clearly reveals. The angel just told Daniel that the prophecy he had been given concerned the End Times and the Tribulation but false teachers try to say that it was all fulfilled when Titus destroyed Jerusalem in A.D. 70.

The angel told Daniel that the words of this prophecy would be shut up and sealed until the Time of the End (the End Times, our time) when God would begin to reveal His truth to those who would seek Him. We said that Catholicism hid the Truth of Scripture from the common people; the truth of Salvation by God's Grace through our faith was re-revealed to men like Luther, Zwingli, Tyndale and Calvin in the 1500's. The truth of the Pre-Tribulation Rapture was re-revealed to men like Darby, Larkin, Brookes and Scofield; the truth of this wonderful prophecy of Daniel's 70 Weeks was also revealed at the same time: at the time of the End, our time. We are the ones to whom God is opening up His Word of Truth.

The Book of Revelation, on the other hand, was not sealed up and hidden but Catholicism, the apostate church itself closed off God's Word to the common people. The Apostle John, at the end of the Revelation, was told: *'Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: for the time is at hand.'* Rev 22:10 The time of the End has been 'at hand' since the beginning of the Church. At the moment when the last chosen member of the Church is called and saved, Jesus Christ will call us up to Himself in the Rapture and then He will restart His prophetic time-clock regarding Israel... that last seven years, the Tribulation, Daniel's 70th Week. When Israel rejected her King, Jesus Christ, God paused His prophetic time-clock regarding Israel; He *put her on the back-burner*, as it were, and turned His attention to creating the long planned, chosen Body and Bride for His Son, the True Church.

This prophecy, in Daniel 9 is the revelation of God's prophetic time-clock regarding Israel. Let's look at it now:

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel: Daniel 9:24-27.

Verse 24: 'Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy. (Six things were to be accomplished.)

²⁵ *Know therefore and understand that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and sixty two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*

²⁶ *And after sixty two weeks shall Messiah be cut off but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*

²⁷ *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (the final week of years): and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.'*

To understand this prophecy, we must be faithful to rightly divide God's Word.

We, as children of God, as students of His Word who are being led and enlightened by His Holy Spirit, if we hope to understand His Word, must always be faithful to rightly divide the Word of Truth.

Every word from God is true and specific; He says what He means and He means what He says and He expects us to pay attention to what He says and to interpret what He says at a literal face value... unless He is obviously speaking of allegory, His Word should be seen as literal and as understandably true.

This prophecy might seem confusing at first but as we study it under the illumination of God's Holy Spirit living within us, giving us wisdom, it will soon be revealed for the clearly understood revelation that it is.

This prophecy goes hand in hand with the Pre-Trib Rapture... one doesn't happen without the other.

God creates and deals with Israel up to the birth of the Church; then, He sets Israel aside for 2000 years as He creates the Church. When the Church is removed in the Rapture, God will resume His work with Israel for the one, final, 7 week period, the Tribulation. Then Jesus Christ will return in Glory, accompanied by the Church, His Bride and He will rule reign over all things for 1000 years as we rule and reign with Him forever.

Gabriel is speaking of 70 weeks of years: (seventy) 7-year periods of time: $70 \times 7 = 490$ years. He will divide the 490 years into 3 specific periods of time: the 1st period will be 7 'weeks' or 49 years. The 2nd period will be 62 weeks or 434 years and finally, 1 week, the final 7 years of the Tribulation, the 70th Week of Daniel.

At the end of 483 years, the first two time periods, Jesus presented Himself to Israel as King but since Israel rejected her King, God paused His work with Israel and inserted a 2000 year gap of time when He would create the Church. **49 yrs... 434 yrs... Jesus... 2000 yr gap of time... final 7 yrs.**

(7 weeks) 49 years (62 weeks) 434 more years 2000 year gap of time (1 week) final 7 years
to rebuild Jerusalem till Jesus comes as King for the Church for the Tribulation

The '70 weeks' first purpose was to give the exact date of Jesus' presentation as King, His Triumphal Entry on a donkey and, also, to prove the truth of God and His Word... if He can prophesy an occurrence, 483 years into the future... predict it to the very day... He is God! He can be depended upon and He can be believed.

This prophecy does, by implication, predict the 2000 year gap of time for the creation of the Church existing between when the Church began and when it will be removed at the beginning of the final 7-year Tribulation.

This prophecy is about God's dealing with Israel and only Israel; it is not written to the Church and it is not about the Church. This prophecy concerns the 483 years before God's creation of the Church and the 7 final years after the Church is removed.

Israel is special and specific to God, especially the Father.

The Church is special and specific to God, especially the Son.

What if God gave a prophecy to Abraham that said, '3 millennia (1000 year periods) are determined for your people: 2 millennia until the coming of their rightful King and one millennium for His Kingdom on Earth.

Looking at it from our time, backward, we could easily see that God had intended for Israel to reject their King and that there would then be a 2000 year gap of time before the prophecy resumed with the 3rd 1000 year period, the Millennial Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Right? Wouldn't that make sense to us? Now see this prophecy of the 70 weeks in the very same light.

Verse 24: *'Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.'*

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city. Literally, this means, seventy 'sevens' concerning Israel, Daniel's people, and Jerusalem, Daniel's holy city. Seventy periods of seven years each, seventy '**weeks of years,**' 490 years will God use to accomplish His purposes in Israel. This prophecy is to Israel... not the Church and not the Gentile nations. In Israel, God will accomplish these six specific things:

- 1) To finish the transgression...
- 2) To make an end of sins...
- 3) To make reconciliation for iniquity...
- 4) To bring in everlasting righteousness...
- 5) To seal up the vision and prophecy...
- 6) To anoint the most Holy.

Through 490 years, (70 weeks) God will accomplish those 6 things; if Israel had received her King, then all 6 of those things would have become accomplished but since He was rejected, and because this prophecy concerns only Israel, none of these have yet been accomplished! Again: this prophecy is not about the Church; it is about Israel and only Israel.

As to the first 3: To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity... God

is accomplishing them in Israel now and will finish doing so through the 7 years of the Tribulation. Israel has been paying for her sin for 2000 years.

Of Israel, God says: *'For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes. ¹⁸ And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable things.'* Jer 16:17 and: *'Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing'* Matt 5:26

'Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. ² Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.' Isa 40:1 These are future for Israel, for the end of the Tribulation and into the Millennium.

Israel has not finished the transgression; she has not made an end of sins; nor made reconciliation for iniquity. Throughout her history, Israel has been the unfaithful, adulterous wife of God. God is holy and He must punish sin. Israel's worst sin was in rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ, the only door of forgiveness, when He came the first time: *'But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified... Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and on our children.'* Matt 27:23 and so it has been for 2000 years and will continue through the 7 year Tribulation.

That, more than any other, was sin which God would in no wise overlook; Israel has been paying for that terrible sin for nearly 2000 years. By the end of the Tribulation she will have finally paid for all her sin, double: to the utmost farthing.

Some sins of the past God did choose to overlook: *'And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent'* Acts 17:30

Israel knowingly rejected her King. They were guilty and God would recompense them double throughout the centuries and especially during the final 7 years, the Tribulation, the 70th week of Daniel, until Jesus returns again, at Armageddon, and removes their blindness as they turn to Him in repentance and faith to Salvation. Then He will be their rightful King and Lord and the message from Isaiah will be true: *'Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. ² Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins.'* Isa 40:1

When He does return, accompanied by us, His Bride, the last three parts of the prophecy will also be accomplished: To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up the vision and prophecy and To anoint the most Holy. He is our everlasting righteousness, He will finally seal up and fulfill all prophecy and He will anoint the most Holy with His own presence as He takes His rightful throne as King of kings and Lord of lords.

He is Righteousness; He is the Spirit of Prophecy and He, Himself, is the Most Holy.

'...this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.' Jer 23:6

'...for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy' Rev 19:10

'... Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty...' Rev 4:8

Verse 25: *'Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.'* (7 weeks and 62 weeks = 69 weeks) (1 week left)

These 490 years are separated into 3 specific periods of time: From a certain commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the coming of Messiah the Prince would be a total of 7 weeks of years and 62 weeks of years: $7 \times 7 = 49$ years, $62 \times 7 = 434$ years for a total of **483 years**. From the command to return from Babylon until the coming of the Messiah will be 483 years exactly, to the day! The Messiah will be rejected; then, sometime later, there will be one final week of years, the Tribulation, 7 years; then Messiah will return.

*We will review these two verses before we continue with the next two verses... fear not, we will understand.

*Read this over a few times before next week... I guarantee it will really help in understanding.