



Daniel 9

Daniel's 70 Weeks

Daniel 9

- ◆ Probably, the most intriguing chapter in the Bible on end-time prophecy!

Matthew 24

- ◆ In Matthew 24, four of Jesus' disciples come to Him and ask about His return
 - ◆ Peter, James, John and Andrew
- ◆ Jesus has a confidential briefing with these disciples

Matthew 24:3-8

- ◆ 3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?
- ◆ 4 And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you.
- ◆ 5 For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.

Matthew 24:3-8

- ◆ 6 And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet.
- ◆ 7 For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.
- ◆ 8 All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Matthew 24:15-22

- ◆ 15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)
- ◆ 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:
- ◆ 17 Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house:
- ◆ 18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

Matthew 24:15-22

- ◆ 19 And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!
- ◆ 20 But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day:
- ◆ 21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.
- ◆ 22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.

- ◆ When these disciples come to Jesus to ask about the end times, Jesus refers them to this passage in Daniel chapter 9
- ◆ it would behoove us, then, to study these verses of Scripture to see what God, through the angel, revealed to Daniel
- ◆ 8:26 (NLT) — But none of these things will happen for a long time, so keep this vision a secret.”
- ◆ 12:4 — 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 9

- ◆ Daniel's prayer — 9:1-19
- ◆ Gabriel's visit — 9:20-23
- ◆ the 70 weeks — 9:24-27

Daniel 9:1-2

- ◆ In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; 2 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 is reading the prophet Jeremiah
 - ◆ many considered Jeremiah to be crazy and his writing absurd
- ◆ as he is reading this prophet he makes a startling discovery:
 - ◆ the captivity of his people would soon be ending — the 70 years were almost up
- ◆ Daniel took the word of the prophet literally
 - ◆ key point: Daniel was in the Word!
 - ◆ BE IN THE WORD!

The Word of God

- ◆ no matter how often we read the Word, there is always something new to learn
- ◆ Daniel would have read Jeremiah 24 and been reassured that God would care for His people no matter what ruler was on the throne
- ◆ He would have read Jeremiah 25 and learned the reason for the exile as well as the length of the exile
- ◆ this would have been confirmed in Jeremiah 29

- ◆ Jeremiah 25:11, 12 — 11 And this whole land 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, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations.
- ◆ Jeremiah 29:10 — 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.

- ◆ Daniel called Jeremiah's writings the "Word of the Lord"
- ◆ king Jehoiakim had tried to burn Jeremiah's writings but God preserved them because they were the very words of the Lord

- ◆ Matthew 24:35 — Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away
- ◆ Isaiah 40:8 — The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.
- ◆ Psalm 119:152 — Concerning thy testimonies, I have known of old that thou hast founded them for ever.

The Word of God

- ◆ A hammer to convict (Jer 23:39)
- ◆ A fire to refine (Jer 23:29)
- ◆ A mirror to reflect (Jas 1:23)
- ◆ Seed to multiply (1 Pet 1:23)
- ◆ A lavar to cleanse (Eph 5:26)
- ◆ A lamp to guide (Ps 119:105)
- ◆ Rain and snow to refresh (Isa 55:10)
- ◆ A sword to cut (Heb 4:12; Eph 6:17)
- ◆ A bow for revenge (Hab 3:9)
- ◆ Gold to enrich (Ps 19:7-10)
- ◆ Power to create faith (Rom 10:17) and eternal life (1 Pet 1:23)
- ◆ Food to nourish
 - ◆ milk for babes (1 Pet 2:2)
 - ◆ Bread for the hungry (Mt 4:4)
 - ◆ Meat for people (Heb 5:11-14)
 - ◆ Honey for dessert (Ps 19:10)

Finis Dake

- ◆ over the centuries, people have ignored, denied, attacked and sought to destroy the Holy Scriptures, but the Word of God is still here!
- ◆ God especially protected the scrolls written by Jeremiah because He wanted Daniel to have a copy to take with him to Babylon

- ◆ 2 Timothy 3:16 — All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- ◆ ALL Scripture — OT and NT
- ◆ the Word of God is the only dependable source of truth about God, man, sin, salvation and the future events God has in His great plan

The God of the Word

- ◆ this is the first time that Jehovah, the covenant name of God, is used in the book of Daniel, and it is used only in this chapter (9:2-3, 10, 13-14, 20)
- ◆ keep in mind that, at this time, God was calling the nation of Israel “Lo-Ruhama — not loved” and “Lo-Ammi — not my people” (Hosea 1) because they had broken His holy covenant

- ◆ as Daniel is reading the prophet Jeremiah, he realizes that captivity is almost over and what does he do?
- ◆ he prays!!
 - ◆ as we're in the Word it will cause us to pray, especially as we see the day of the Lord draw night
 - ◆ when we pray, "Let your Kingdom come" we are, in a sense, asking the Lord to return
- ◆ Rev. 22:17 — And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come

- ◆ Daniel came to God pleading for mercy and forgiveness for himself and his people
- ◆ that's the kind of praying the Lord Jehovah wants to hear from His people
- ◆ the promise of God's forgiveness was written into the covenant:
 - ◆ Lev. 26:40-42 — 40 If they shall confess their iniquity, and the iniquity of their fathers, with their trespass which they trespassed against me, and that also they have walked contrary unto me;...42 Then will I remember my covenant with Jacob, and also my covenant with Isaac, and also my covenant with Abraham will I remember; and I will remember the land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

- ◆ If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

- ◆ God revealed to Jeremiah that the people of Israel would be taken to Babylon and exiled from their land for seventy years (Jer 25:11-12, 29:10)
- ◆ God had commanded His people to give their land a “sabbath rest” every seven years and a “Year of Jubilee” every fifty years (Lev 25)

- ◆ however, it was not until the nation's captivity in Babylon that the land enjoyed its sabbath rests (2 Chron 36:20-21)
- ◆ captivity began in 606-605 BC and in 537-536 BC the first exiles returned to their land — a time of 70 years!

Daniel 9:3-19

- ◆ 3 And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:
- ◆ 4 And I prayed unto the Lord my God, and made my confession, and said, O Lord, the great and dreadful God, keeping the covenant and mercy to them that love him, and to them that keep his commandments;
- ◆ 5 We have sinned, and have committed iniquity, and have done wickedly, and have rebelled, even by departing from thy precepts and from thy judgments:

Daniel 9:3-19

- ◆ 6 Neither have we hearkened unto thy servants the prophets, which spake in thy name to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.
- ◆ 7 O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day; to the men of Judah, and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and unto all Israel, that are near, and that are far off, through all the countries whither thou hast driven them, because of their trespass that they have trespassed against thee.
- ◆ 8 O Lord, to us belongeth confusion of face, to our kings, to our princes, and to our fathers, because we have sinned against thee.

Daniel 9:3-19

- ◆ 9 To the Lord our God belong mercies and forgivenesses, though we have rebelled against him;
- ◆ 10 Neither have we obeyed the voice of the Lord our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.
- ◆ 11 Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.

Daniel 9:3-19

- ◆ 12 And he hath confirmed his words, which he spake against us, and against our judges that judged us, by bringing upon us a great evil: for under the whole heaven hath not been done as hath been done upon Jerusalem.
- ◆ 13 As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the Lord our God, that we might turn from our iniquities, and understand thy truth.

Daniel 9:3-19

- ◆ 14 Therefore hath the Lord watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the Lord our God is righteous in all his works which he doeth: for we obeyed not his voice.
- ◆ 15 And now, O Lord our God, that hast brought thy people forth out of the land of Egypt with a mighty hand, and hast gotten thee renown, as at this day; we have sinned, we have done wickedly.

Daniel 9:3-19

- ◆ 16 O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.
- ◆ (He's acknowledging sin with a focus on Jerusalem and God's people)

Daniel 9:3-19

- ◆ 17 Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.
- ◆ 18 O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.
- ◆ 19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.

- ◆ Daniel is an example of balance in the spiritual life
- ◆ he devoted himself both to the Word of God and prayer!
 - ◆ Acts 6:4 — But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.
- ◆ when Daniel learned God's truth, the experience humbled him and moved him to worship and to pray

- ◆ Daniel was a man of prayer — we've seen this since the beginning of the book
- ◆ Daniel and his friends sought the face of God when Nebuchadnezzar threatened to slay all the magicians and counselors (2:16-23)
- ◆ Daniel's habit was to pray to the Lord 3 times a day (6:10-11)
- ◆ when God showed him visions of future events he wasn't satisfied until he had asked for an explanation (7:15; 8:15)
- ◆ prayer was a vital part of Daniel's life!

- ◆ Daniel prepared himself for prayer:
 - ◆ he humbled himself in sackcloth and ashes
 - ◆ he fasted
 - ◆ he directed his heart and mind to the Lord
- ◆ preparation for prayer is as important as prayer itself
- ◆ without a heart that is right with God, our prayers are just pious words

- ◆ so many times we rush into God's presence and ask for things, without first pausing to worship Him
- ◆ Daniel's words describe a:
 - ◆ God who is great and faithful to keep His promises
 - ◆ God who loves His people and gives them His Word to obey so that He can bless them
 - ◆ God who is merciful
 - ◆ God who forgives the sins of His people when they come to Him in contrition and confession
 - ◆ Nehemiah prayed this same way concerning the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem (Neh 1:5)

- ◆ many times the intercession of one person can stay the hand of God and His judgment
- ◆ on two occasions God was ready to wipe out the entire Jewish nation, but the intercession of Moses stayed His hand (Ex. 32:7-14; Num 14:10-25)
- ◆ Elijah prayed and God sent the rain that was so desperately needed
- ◆ Jehoshaphat prayed and God gave Israel victory over the large invading army of Moabites and Ammonites (2 Chron 20)

- ◆ king Hezekiah prayed when the Assyrian army surrounded Jerusalem and the Lord sent His angel to assault 185,000 enemy soldiers
- ◆ James 5:16 — ...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.
- ◆ God doesn't have to wait for the entire nation to repent; He will start to work when He hears the believing prayers of one faithful intercessor

- ◆ the interesting thing about Daniel is that he included himself in this prayer of repentance
- ◆ there is nothing negative spoken about Daniel in the entire Bible, but here he includes himself
- ◆ 9:5-6 — the Jews had sinned, rebelled, turned away from His law, disobeyed His commands, done wrong and refused to listen to the messengers God had sent to them

- ◆ 2 Chronicles 36:15-16 — 15 And the Lord God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: 16 But they mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the Lord arose against his people, till there was no remedy.
- ◆ God had been long-suffering with His covenant people, but the time came when He had to act

- ◆ What were the consequences of the nation's rebellion?
 - ◆ they became a sinful people, a people covered with shame (Dan 9:8 — "confusion of face") and a scattered people
 - ◆ their land was overrun by enemy soldiers
 - ◆ their great city of Jerusalem was destroyed
 - ◆ their holy temple was desecrated, robbed and burned
 - ◆ it was their own sins that had brought these disasters
 - ◆ why? because their leaders and the people knew the terms of God's covenant, but they deliberately violated them

- ◆ the Jews were unfaithful to God's covenant, but God was faithful to keep His Word
- ◆ If the nation had obeyed, God would have been faithful to bless them (Ps 81:11-16)
- ◆ but because they rebelled, He was faithful to chasten them (Dan 9:12)
- ◆ Daniel didn't make excuses for the nation, nor did he say that God's covenant was too demanding

- ◆ there was something worse than the sins that brought divine punishment to Israel
- ◆ their refusal to repent and confess their sins even after being taken captive!
- ◆ they spent their time praying for judgment against Babylon (Ps 137) rather than seeking God's face and asking for His forgiveness
 - ◆ we always want to blame rather than accept responsibility
- ◆ Daniel knew that God is righteous in everything he does (9:14) and he knew that God had purposes for Israel to fulfill, so he reminded God of His past mercies (9:15)

- ◆ Daniel asked the Lord to turn away His anger from Jerusalem and the holy temple
- ◆ he admitted that the sins of Israel were the cause of that great catastrophe, but that God had promised to forgive if His people would repent and confess their sins
- ◆ “we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies” — (9.18)
- ◆ Daniel wanted the nation to be restored so God would be glorified

- ◆ God answered Daniel's prayer
- ◆ the next year Cyrus issued a decree that permitted the Jews to return to their land, take the temple treasures with them, rebuild the temple and restore the worship
- ◆ Daniel's ministry in Babylon was remarkable!
 - ◆ he was a counselor to four kings, intercessor for the people of Israel, a faithful witness to the true and living God and the author of one of the basic books of prophecy in the OT

- ◆ while Daniel was praying and making intercession for his people, he hadn't finished praying yet, his prayer gets interrupted by the angel Gabriel