

The Seventy "Sevens" of Daniel, Chapter 9

It has been said that Daniel is the heart of all prophecy and the outline of all prophetic interpretation concerning Israel and the coming Messiah. In chapter nine we are introduced to the 70 periods of "7" or, as the literal translation states, "Seventy weeks." These seventy weeks represent seventy periods of seven years each and are quite specific as to the unfolding plan for Israel.

I. Daniel 8:27 and Jeremiah 29:10

- A. Daniel is worn out and appalled by the vision he received in chapter 8. It was beyond his understanding. Gabriel does not complete the mission of giving understanding to Daniel about the future of the vision.
- B. Daniel continues his reading and prayer from Jeremiah and learns of the seventy years of captivity which leads to his intercessory prayer that God make His Name great once again in Jerusalem by restoring the ancient city and the ruins.
- C. We find Daniel praying this prayer of repentance and intercession in the ninth chapter, vv.1-19.

II. Gabriel Interprets the Seventy Weeks (or 70 x 7) vv.20-25

- A. Daniel is interrupted in his prayer by Gabriel. He has come to interpret for Daniel the visions and introduces the "seventy weeks" decreed for Israel and to bring about everlasting righteousness. V.24
- B. The seventy weeks will begin with the word going out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. V.25
- C. There will be seven weeks and sixty two weeks from the decree to rebuild until the Anointed One, the Messiah, is put to death without inheriting Israel at that time.
- D. The destruction of the restored Jerusalem will come like a flood, but war will continue beyond its destruction until the end and desolations have been decreed. V.26

III. The Seventieth Week: The Rule of the Antichrist v.27

- A. The "Ruler" (the Antichrist) makes a covenant with God's people.
- B. In the middle of the last week he will break the covenant and put an end to sacrifice and offering.
 - 1. Revelation 11:3: the two witnesses, 1,260 days (3.5 years)
 - 2. The Dragon breaks covenant with Israel, Rev. 13:1-6, 42 months (3.5 years)
- C. He will set up the abomination of desolation in the Temple until the end that is decreed is poured out upon him. (Matthew 24:1-31, 2 Thessalonians 2: man of sin & lawlessness, abomination of desolation.