**DCF 270222 Dan 9: 20 – 24** **The Seventy-Weeks Prophecy**

**Half yearly AGM Brian Worship Bec Sound Sue R piano**

**Dan 9 *20Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the Lord my God for the holy mountain of my God, 21yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.***

God’s angel was already in action while Daniel was praying. ***Matt 6:8 For your Father knows the things you have need of before you ask Him.*** So, why do you ask? Because our Father wants a relationship. When we pray from our heart: “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done”, that is proof of relationship.

Notice how Daniel’s prayer includes confession. What takes precedence in our prayer? – complaints or confession? Humility is so essential, when we approach a holy God, aware of our unworthiness. God says to Isaiah in 66:2 ***On this one I will look. On him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at my word.”*** The word for ‘contrite’ is ‘*nakeh’*, it is used only 3 times in the Bible. Two times in 2 Samuel 4:4 and 9:3, it is translated ‘lame’, to describe Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan, when he was dropped by his nurse as a 5 year old, while she fled after hearing that Abner was dead. It means ‘stricken’, or ‘smitten’.

Notice too, that Daniel prays for Israel. Now Daniel was a person of huge authority. We have varying degrees and areas of influence in places which God has deliberately positioned us. In our family, nation, state, neighborhood, shire, church, club, occupation, marriage, family – we must not only seek to be God’s voice, but also realize, we have been positioned there to steer it for God. We are partly responsible for the sin in the community we live in. We need to confess the sins of our community.

Daniel intercedes for Jerusalem – the holy mountain, despite it deserving the judgement of God. We stand as Christian Australians. We cannot intercede for Australia if we do nothing. But if we are active in battle against the sins of this country, we have authority to intercede. The sons of Sceva, failed to cast out demons because they had no authority. ***Acts 19:13 13Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” 14Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so.***

***15And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?”***

***16Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.***

Authority comes out of real relationship and the willingness to suffer for Jesus. ‘Exousia’ the Greek word for authority, means, out of being. Out of who you are. If you are at a smoking ceremony, bind every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

Then Gabriel flies to him. He had previously met Gabe in the reign of Belshazzar. ***Dan 8:1,16 In the third year of the reign of King Belshazzar a vision appeared to me—to me, Daniel—after the one that appeared to me the first time. 2I saw in the vision,….. 16 And I heard a man’s voice between the banks of the Ulai, who called, and said, “Gabriel, make this man understand the vision.***

Notice too, that Gabriel is restricted by time. He hurries to Daniel, coming to Daniel on a deliberate mission, at the time of the evening offering. So, angels are not necessarily instantaneous. In Dan 10:13 the angel messenger was hindered in battle for 3 weeks. ***13But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days; and behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left alone there with the kings of Persia.***

We must realize that there is a huge spiritual war in progress. The more aggressive you become for the kingdom of God, the more you will be targeted.

The timing was important. It was the time Daniel remembered when he would have seen the smoke rising from the temple.

***Dan 9:22 22And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. 23At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:***

The angel is sent by God to help the man understand. We have the Holy Spirit, who helps us understand. ***John 16:13 13However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.***

Jesus is our friend, and reveals the depth of the person of God to us. ***John 15:15  No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. 16You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.***

The supplication was answered. Not all our prayers are answered the way we want. We often pray for fleshly answers. That is what Jesus seeks to correct when He teaches us to pray ‘Thy kingdom come’ and ‘Thy will be done’.

The study of the Word of God, cannot be affective without prayer. People can go to college, study the grammar, read the commentaries, and still miss it. Job 28:28 tells us that unless we have departed from evil, we never understood. ***The fear of the Lord that is wisdom and to depart from evil is understanding.***

***Phil 4:6 6Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.***

But our heavenly Father wants us to bring our supplications to Him. As we bring our requests to God, warfare happens. In the process of prayer, our hearts and minds are sharpened to the seduction of the enemy, so that they are guarded. Do not be deluded into thinking you will be ignored. Jesus became a man go understand our battles.

***Heb 4:15 15For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.***

**Dan 9:24** ***24“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.***

Firstly, note that the word for ‘weeks’ is the same word for ‘sevens’. Now the numbers 70 and 7 are important in the Bible. 70 was the expected life span for a person. ***Psalm 90:10 the days of our lives are 70 years.*** It expressed completeness. ***Luke 10:1 … the Lord appointed 70 others also …. Gen 46:27 All the persons of the house of Jacob who went to Egypt were seventy.*** Eight is the number of the resurrection – e.g. octave, week, piano has 7 octaves. 7 x 7 + 1 = 50 notes.

In Lev 25:8 after 7 x 7 = 49 years came the year of the Jubilee. This was when slaves were freed and land and possessions returned to their original owners. ***8‘And you shall count seven sabbaths of years for yourself, seven times seven years; and the time of the seven sabbaths of years shall be to you forty-nine years. 9Then you shall cause the trumpet of the Jubilee to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month; on the Day of Atonement you shall make the trumpet to sound throughout all your land. 10And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family. 11That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of its own accord, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine. 12For it is the Jubilee; it shall be holy to you; you shall eat its produce from the field.***

***13‘In this Year of Jubilee, each of you shall return to his possession.***

So when seven sevens led to a jubilee, seventy sevens was the ultimate jubilee. This was to be a celebration of 7 things, when Jesus comes to reign on earth. But there are lessons for us today.

***1 to finish the transgression…*** Sadly, today, if repentance does not happen, there is no other way to stop transgression than for judgement has to come. This is a very unpopular message for the God-haters. This signifies the end of man’s rebellion.

***2 … to make an end of sins…*** When Jesus comes, sin stops. Today, true repentance shuts the door to sinful acts. It is not enough just to stop doing wrong, the door must be shut.

***3 … to make reconciliation for iniquity…*** Sin brings damage to people and communities. As we excuse a sin, we open the doors to many other sins. Today, it is not enough to stop, we must restore people. This was the work of Jesus at Calvary.

***4 …to bring in everlasting righteousness…*** The result of God’s correction is fantastic. When we are corrected, we get a taste of the righteousness of God. The world does not know what this is like. This is the new world order that comes with the return and reign of Jesus.

***5 … to seal up vision…*** Things come to an end. The exile would end. The battering of slavery would end. But also visions and prophecy would at last be fulfilled.

***6 … (to seal up) prophecy…*** Prophecy will be fulfilled. It is not there to scare us. It is there so that we see the precision and omniscience of God. God is not subservient to time. He created time. There will come a time when life as we know it ends. Dan 8:***17  for at the appointed time the end shall be.*** We understand time, in terms of days, because the sun rises and sets each day. But when God describes the new Jerusalem there is no sun. Rev 21:23 ***23The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. 24And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it. 25Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there).***

***7 … to anoint the Most Holy…*** Jerusalem is the most holy site on earth, but now, we too are anointed – touched by God. It is such a privilege and blessing, that God sets us apart, and covers us as our Father. The Lord’s prayer, begins with that statement. ‘Our Father’, is a huge statement. It links us with family in other countries who we may never even meet. Our gifts to persecuted Christians is very important. To anoin*t* the Most Holy, is to recognize that the person of God, the people of God, the Son of God, the family of God, the city of God are different from anything else in this world. ***John 3:3 … unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.***

God has preordained a plan for Israel, for the church, and for all mankind. We need to surrender our lives to fit into His plan. The prayer ‘Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done’, is proof of our surrendered heart. Amen.

Final Song: I will never ever leave you.

**Homework**

1  [Genesis 29:15-28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Genesis+29.15-28&t=NKJV) is an example of using this ancient Hebrew word (*shabuwa*) for both seven days and seven years in the same context.

## 2 **THE SEVENTY WEEKS OF DANIEL AS UNDERSTOOD BY SIR ROBERT ANDERSON IN “THE COMING PRINCE”**

[Daniel 9:24-25](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Daniel+9.24-25&t=NKJV) says that from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem to the coming of the Messiah there will be 483 years.

7 + 62 “weeks” = 69 groups of seven years. 7 x 69 = 483 years

Anderson understood a prophetic year as 360 days. This is based both on ancient history and on [Revelation 11:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.2&t=NKJV), [13:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+13.5&t=NKJV), [11:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+11.3&t=NKJV), and [12:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+12.6&t=NKJV) which indicate that 42 months – 3 ½ years – are equal to 1,260 days.

Therefore, 483 years x 360 days = 173,880 days

Artaxerxes started his reign in 465 B.C. The decree to rebuild Jerusalem was given on the first day of Nisan, in the 20th year of Artaxerxes. In our calendar system (the Julian calendar) that date is March 14, 445 B.C. ([Nehemiah 2:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Nehemiah+2.1&t=NKJV))

Jesus started His ministry in the 15th year of Tiberius (see [Luke 3:1](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+3.1&t=NKJV)). Tiberius started his reign in A.D. 14, so Jesus’ ministry started in A.D. 29. Anderson believed that Jesus celebrated four Passovers during His ministry, one each in A.D. 29, 30, 31. and His final Passover in A.D. 32. With the help of lunar charts, we can calculate the exact date of ancient Passovers, so it is possible to calculate the exact day of Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem as April 6, A.D. 32.

From 445 B.C. to A.D. 32. there are 476 years on the Julian calendar  
(not 477 years, because there is no year zero).

476 years x 365 days = 173,740 days.

Adjusting for the difference between March 14 and April 6 adds 24 days.

Adjusting for leap years over a period of 476 years adds 116 days.

The total number of days from March 14, 445 B.C. to April 6, A.D. 32.  
173,740 + 24 + 116 = 173,880 days.

According to his calendar, Daniel told us there would be 173,880 days between the decree and the arrival of Messiah the Prince.

Jesus said to the Jews of this day: *If you had known, even you, especially IN THIS YOUR DAY, the things that make for your peace!* ([Luke 19:42](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Luke+19.42&t=NKJV)). David said of this day in [Psalm 118:24](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+118.24&t=NKJV): THIS IS THE DAY *which the LORD has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it*.