

## **Finish Faithful Notes for Episode 4 – Daniel 9:20-27**

This episode covers this super-important prophesy that is foundational to studying end-times events.

The answer to Daniel's prayer in chapter 9 is one of the most spectacular answers to prayer in the Bible. In our last episode we studied his prayer in the 1<sup>st</sup> 19 verses of Daniel 9. It was a spectacular prayer that got this amazing answer. He prayed for God's Word to come to pass for His people and His holy city according to His righteousness.

Daniel was hungry for more understanding about the prophecies. If you are listening to this— you are hungry for more knowledge. Along with reading and learning, we need to pray and seek the understanding God gives. The message of nearly all prophesy, in the short term, is to forsake sin and live in a holy manner pleasing to God. It is not just for interesting head-knowledge. It is to have our mind and heart in sync with God's plan. With his whole heart and his whole mind he searched to the Word of God for answers.

His prayer was heard immediately and God commanded the host of heaven to go into action and Gabriel was sent personally. Gabriel show up when there is big news, like going to Mary to tell her she would have a child.

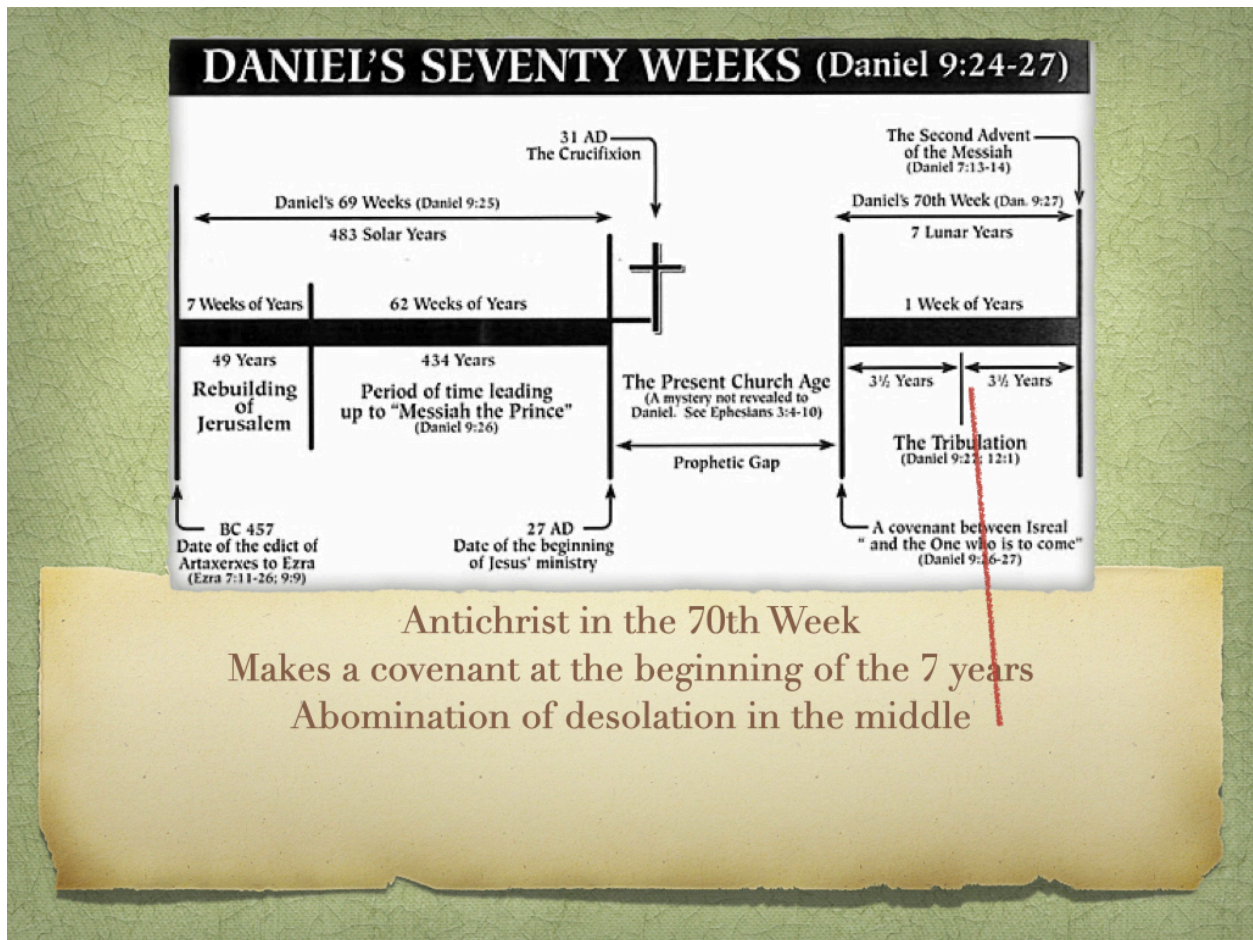
It was right on target for Daniel to pray about the temple, Jerusalem and Mt. Zion, because these are so central to God's plan. We Gentile Christians should also care about these and be watching what goes on there in our time. Jerusalem is ground zero for the end-times events that unfold in the Bible.

Daniel prayed about the 70 years of the Babylonian captivity, but the answer was to tell him about 70 sevens (weeks) of years. A seven-year period was very important throughout the Old Testament, because every 7<sup>th</sup> year was to be a sabbath year.

9:24. The future of the nation of Israel (and human history) is summed up in this one verse! Everlasting righteousness is how history concludes after the end of this age. That is obviously yet future. So, in this verse, God is setting a timetable for the judgement He has promised since the time of Moses and before. Think of the comfort and hope that provided to Israel with all she would go through in the next 500 years!

9:25. Jerusalem will be restored and rebuilt! Messiah will come!  
 Let's break it down to see what we are able to understand.

- Seventy week = 70 sevens of years
- 7 sevens, or 49 years, to rebuild the temple and Jerusalem as occurred in Ezra and Nehemiah.
- 62 more sevens, in troubled times, until Messiah is cut off, but not for himself. This was fulfilled in the crucifixion. 69 sevens of years is 483 years. That is just what happened. Various scholars and biblical chronologers have come up with different start dates and end dates, but the cutting off of Jesus Christ was 483 years after this decree. All Israel should have been expecting this—even if they didn't know exactly what it meant, they should have expected Messiah right at the time of Jesus. This is a good example of why we need to study end-times prophesy. They were obviously blind to it and we do not want to be blind to what God reveals so that we can know and be prepared!



Chronology challenges. Babylonian calendar. Matching the decree with historical records and converting that to our solar years. Hebrew calendar is lunar, so days and months need to be added at various times to sync back up with the earth revolving around the sun. Exact dates for the ministry and death of Jesus the Messiah. The conclusions of scholars and chronologers match up that Messiah would be cut off about

30 A.D. +/- . In Finish Faithful, we are looking for the things we can be quite sure we understand. It is sufficient to know that the Jews would have known, either exactly or quite close, when the decree went out to rebuild Jerusalem. They should have been expecting Messiah about 483 years later. Yet their leaders and scholars, the Sadducees, Pharisees and scribes were mostly blind to it. Remember when Herod asked where the Christ was to be born? It was not hard at all to come up with the answer. Their assumptions of what Messiah would be like, along with their own selfish agendas to preserve their system and status made them blind. We do not want to be blinded by what we may have been previously taught to assume about how the return of Christ will look—right? If what the Bible says upsets our apple cart a bit or causes us to change, that is a good thing—right? It's ok if the Bible makes us uncomfortable. It has always made people uncomfortable and it's supposed to do that! Let us be good Bereans and “receive the Word with all readiness of mind and search the scripture whether those things are so”.

### Conclusion

Now, you may be asking, ‘what about the rapture of the church’. Well, that is part of the mystery of the church and was not revealed to Daniel. His prophecy has explicitly told us it concerns Israel. We will get to the rapture in future episodes and see how the destiny of the church is new revelation, yet it is interwoven with the Old Testament prophesies about God’s coming judgement and Messiah’s coming kingdom.

This section of Daniel chapter 9 is bedrock foundation for end-times prophesy, but, also, look at the life lesson for all God’s people to come after.

- God chose Israel to be the people and nation by whom His Word would come and the redeemer and savior, Jesus Christ.
- His righteous kingdom will be established on earth though events in and around Israel.
- God is ultimately in control of the story. What He has said would come to pass, has come to pass. We can trust what He says about the future.
- 9:24 tells us God has a set plan and timetable to put an end to sin, land to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness. In all the wretched times and kingdoms that have ruled God’s people, we can know that everlasting righteousness and the end of sin is coming.
- There will be wars until the end. As Jesus said, ‘wars and rumors of wars. God’s plan is still on track and on schedule.
- There will be a super-bad ruler, whom we call the antichrist, but for a short time.
- The point is that God’s power is greater. No matter how evil and invincible world rulers look, they can’t stop the coming of Messiah and the blessings of his coming.