

# Daniel



## Lesson 18-The Divine Answer and Prophetic Time of Messiah **Focus: Daniel 9:20-27**

- ❖ **Daniel had been praying to God, confessing his sin and the sin of his people.** *This was “in the first year of Darius...” (v.1) which was 538 BC. (12 years after the vision of Daniel 8 had been received by Daniel).*
  - Daniel had also been praying about the City of Jerusalem and the Sanctuary there. He was praying that it would be restored by God’s great mercy for the glory of God’s great name. He prayed that God would “delay not,” but would soon fulfill his promise to return the Jews home to Jerusalem (v.17-19). Daniel wondered if perhaps God was going to lengthen the Jews stay in captivity. He did not yet understand several details about the Sanctuary and the 2300 day time prophecy of Daniel 8.
- ❖ **As Daniel was praying, the angel Gabriel was sent to him, to give him understanding, and to answer his questions (v.20-23)**
  - Gabriel had been commissioned to do this 12 years earlier (**Daniel 8:14,16,26,27**), but Daniel had not been able to grasp all the details at that one time, nor did he need to know all of them at that one time. In this vision, Gabriel now returns to explain the matter to Daniel.
- ❖ **Gabriel begins to explain about the time prophecy (v.24).** *Note: 70 weeks (7s) or 490 days would mean 490 literal years. These are specifically for the Jews and are “determined” or “cut off” from the larger 2300 year time period. **What else would happen during this time?***
  - ✓ 70 weeks “cut off” for Daniel’s people (Jews)
  - ✓ To finish the transgression (reconciling the sin of Adam)
  - ✓ To make an end of sin offerings
  - ✓ To make reconciliation for iniquity (sin)
  - ✓ To bring in everlasting righteousness
  - ✓ To “seal up” the vision and prophecy
  - ✓ To anoint the Most Holy
- ❖ **Before, Daniel had no idea about when this time prophecy would begin. What does Gabriel tell him about this? (v.25) And, whose work would it point to?**
  - It would begin by the “command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem” (which happened during the time of the Persian Empire). **This was in the “7<sup>th</sup> year of King Artaxerxes” which can be very well pinpointed at 457 BC. (See Ezra 7:7, 10-13)** Ezra was one of the books in the Bible which recorded the return of the Jews from their Babylonian captivity.
  - **This prophecy should point us to the “Anointed One” or “Messiah the Prince.”** After 7 “sevens” and 62 “sevens” the Messiah/Anointed One would appear. That would be a total of 69 sevens (or, 483 years) (leaving only one “seven” remaining). **If you go 483 years into the future from 457 BC, you will come to AD 27** as the year when Messiah should begin his work of ministry. (a calculator will give you 26, but remember, there’s no “0” year between 1 BC and AD 1, so you’ll come to 27).

- **Who is this Messiah and when was He anointed for His ministry? (See Luke 3:1,2,21,22; 4:18; Acts 10:38).** This occurred in the “...fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar” (Luke 3:1). That is actually the only date given to us in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). Historians have pinpointed that very year of Christ’s baptism to be **in the year AD 27. Was Jesus aware of this fulfillment of prophecy? Of course!!** (notice Mark 1:14,15).
- ❖ **The next two verses of Daniel 9 give us the closing details of the Messiah’s work, and also describe the destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70 (v.26,27)** (these two verses are in parallel structure; they describe the work of Messiah in the first half of each, and the work of the Romans in the second half of the verse)
  - **Was Messiah “cut off” for our sins?** Yes, absolutely! Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He was “...cut off from the land of the living” (Isaiah 53:8).
  - **Jesus died as our Lamb which forever “put an end to the sacrifice and offering” services.** Jesus is “...**the Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). The earthly Sanctuary and its services were no longer needed after the cross of Jesus Christ (Matthew 27:51 points this out too as the Temple curtain tore apart at Jesus’ death on the cross).
  - **Did Jesus “confirm a new covenant” with us? (See Matthew 26:27,28; Hebrews 8:10).** Absolutely! In the new covenant it is Jesus’ blood that was shed for us, not an earthly lamb; It is Jesus who intercedes for our sins, not an earthly high priest anymore; it is the Sanctuary in Heaven that we look to now, not some earthly sanctuary in Jerusalem.
  - **Christ’s public ministry lasted only 3 ½ years.** He died in **AD 31**, then went back to heaven; that was in the “middle” of the last week (seven). **Christ’s disciples continued the work of confirming the new covenant, especially with the Jewish people over the next 3 ½ years (ending in AD 34).** At the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7), many Christians were spread out everywhere. Peter received a vision to share with all the Gentiles (Acts 10:28). Saul (Paul) was converted and made the Apostle to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15). Paul and Barnabus finally turned away from many of the Jewish leaders when they hardened their hearts against receiving the gospel (**Acts 13:46**).
- ❖ **Everything from verse 24 was fulfilled in this time period.** At the beginning of the time period, the earthly Sanctuary and Jerusalem were rebuilt (Persian times). Just after the end of this time period, in AD 70 the Roman armies under the leadership of General Titus came and destroyed “the city and the sanctuary” again. (Jesus also prophesied this event based on Daniel; Matthew 24:1-3, 15,16; Luke 21:20,21,24). **So, the Sanctuary mentioned at the end of the 2300 day/year prophecy must be the heavenly Sanctuary where Jesus ministers for us now (Hebrews 8:1,2,5).** It is the only Sanctuary that is mentioned in the Gospel period.
- ❖ **The 2300 year prophecy follows the pattern of the Sanctuary** and outlines every phase of Christ’s work: The Lamb/the Altar and courtyard, the “daily” work (Daniel 8:11), and the final closing service—“the cleansing of the Sanctuary” (Daniel 8:14) which signals the start of the Heavenly Judgment. Take 2300 years minus the 490 (first part). You’ll get 1810 years remaining. The 490 year period ended in AD 34. So AD 34 plus 1810 years **brings us to AD 1844.** That year signaled the start of the Heavenly Judgment which was described in Daniel 7 as beginning sometime after AD 1798 (when the Little Horn lost its power).

*Question (s) for the Heart:*

Seeing how all history is centered around Jesus, do you want Jesus to be at the center of your life? \_\_\_\_  
 Will you make His will for your life first in all your choices? \_\_\_\_\_