

TOUGH TIMES AFFECT ISRAEL'S FUTURE

Daniel 9

After spiritual struggle, we often feel tired—sometimes depressed—even when we've experienced victory.

Daniel's experience -After ch 8, (God's program for pagans in 7-8)

He's tired, sick, frightened—due to spiritual battle & vision

Needs dose of Dan. 1-6!

When *WE* face spiritual struggles, we need reminders of how God's hand sustained *US* in past.

God left **examples** who remain faithful & triumph—Dan. 1-6; Heb. 11.

Past occasions in *our* lives when *WE* needed help & He gave victory give *US* confidence to trust Him with *OUR* future.

Daniel is struggling over God's plan for the future.

How does plan for pagans (7-8) relate to plan for Israel? Will we survive?

9-12 answers these questions

Regarding Dan personally => answers his questions at Babylon's fall.

Regarding book => answers questions raised in ch. 8 (11 yrs earlier)

GOD'S PROGRAM FOR ISRAEL IN FUTURE 9-12

Gentiles still involved; focus changes => what *God's people* experience

OVERVIEW of God's program for Israel during entire period—extends to our times Dan 9

DETAILS of God's program for Israel in near future 10-12

—includes summary of how these events lead to final victory

Introduced by personal struggle growing out of previous visions:

PRAYER PROVOKED BY RECOGNITION OF SIN 9:1-19

Daniel's awareness of Jeremiah's prophecy

In 1st yr of Darius' reign, Daniel begins to think 1-3 *"In 1st year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, by descent a Mede, made king over realm of the Chaldeans—²in 1st year of his reign, I, Daniel, perceived in the books the # of yrs, according to the word of the Lord to Jer. the prophet, must pass before the end of the desolations of Jerusalem, namely, 70 yrs."*

Daniel's discovery: captivity to last **70 yrs**

Calculate yrs & realizes end's near.

Fall of Babylon = sign of end => End of captivity is at hand.

Response: "concentrated" prayer—asking God's intervention

Daniel's prayer for the nation 3-19

Daniel's confession 3-15 *"I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him by prayer & pleas for mercy with fasting, sackcloth & ashes. ⁴I prayed to the Lord my God & made confession, saying, "O Lord, the great & awesome God, who keeps covenant & steadfast love with those who love him & keep his commandments, ⁵we have sinned, done wrong, acted wickedly & rebelled, turning aside from your commandments & rules. ⁶We haven't listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, princes, fathers, & to all the people of the land. ⁷To you, O Lord, belongs righteousness, but to us open shame, as at this day, to the men of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, & all Israel, those who are near & those far away, in all the lands to which you have driven them, because of the treachery they've*

committed against you. ⁸To us, O Lord, belongs open shame, to our kings, princes & fathers, because we've sinned against you. ⁹To the Lord our God belong mercy & forgiveness, for we've rebelled against him ¹⁰& haven't obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by walking in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. ¹¹All Israel has transgressed your law & turned aside, refusing to obey your voice. The curse & oath written in the Law of Moses the servant of God have been poured out upon us, because we've sinned against him. ¹²He has confirmed his words, which he spoke against us & against our rulers who ruled us, by bringing upon us great calamity. For under the whole heaven there hasn't been done anything like what's been done against Jerusalem. ¹³As it's written in the Law of Moses, all this calamity has come upon us; yet we haven't entreated the favor of the Lord our God, turning from our iniquities & gaining insight by your truth. ¹⁴Therefore the Lord has kept ready the calamity & it upon us, for the Lord our God is righteous in all the works he's done, & we haven't obeyed his voice. ¹⁵Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of the land of Egypt with mighty hand, & made a name for yourself, as at this day, we've sinned, we've done wickedly."

Why does Daniel pray THIS prayer?

Responds on basis of Dt. 28-30

From beginning, God establishes basis for blessing and cursing

28 "If you obey the Lord your God . . ." => blessing 1-14

"If you don't obey the Lord your God ..." => cursing 15-68

30:1-3—tells how to experience restoration: **repent-- return to God**

He recognizes the cause of their suffering.

They haven't obeyed Him.=> They're under judgment

They must turn back to God. They haven't yet repented
13 *"All this calamity has come on us; yet we haven't entreated favor of the Lord our God, turning from our iniquities & gaining insight by your truth. Time of restoration is near.*

He responds for people, doing what they should do themselves!

Daniel's petition 16-19 *"O Lord, according to all your righteous acts, let your anger & your wrath turn away from your city Jerusalem, your holy hill, because for our sins, & iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem & your people have become a byword among all around us. ¹⁷Therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant & his pleas for mercy. For your own sake, O Lord, make your face shine upon your sanctuary, which is desolate. ¹⁸O my God, incline your ear & hear. Open your eyes & see our desolations, & the city that is called by your name. For we do not present our pleas before you because of our righteousness, but because of your great mercy. ¹⁹O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive. O Lord, pay attention & act. Delay not, for your own sake, O my God, because your city & your people are called by your name."*

Daniel intervenes: asking God to forgive and restore them

**When God restores His people,
 faithful finally triumph!**

GOD RESPONDS: VISION OF 70 WEEKS 9:20-27

God's answer to Daniel's prayer 20-23 *"While I was speaking & praying, confessing my sin & the sin of my people Israel, & presenting my plea before the Lord my God for the holy hill of my God, ²¹while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel,*

whom I'd seen in the vision at 1st, came to me in swift flight at the time of evening sacrifice. ²²He made me understand, speaking with me & saying, "O Daniel, I've come out to give you insight & understanding. ²³At beginning of your pleas for mercy a word went out, & I've come to tell it to you, for you're greatly loved. Therefore consider the word & understand the vision."

Revelation and promise given to Daniel through Gabriel

Plan that answers Daniel's request revealed: 24-27

His desire *will come*—but *not yet*

Full extent of Daniel's desire is going to take 70 "weeks" to fulfill.

God's plan to satisfy Daniel's desire—70 "weeks"=>sets of 7

(=yrs) **24** *"70 weeks are decreed about your people & your holy city, to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, & to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision & prophet, & anoint most holy place."*

To understand events—related to Israel—we must know this prophecy!

At conclusion of 70 weeks, 6 goals are accomplished:

Daniel sees them as result of God's plan—fulfilled 3 at 1st coming;
3 at 2nd

3 deal with sin: Accomplished at Christ's 1st coming
(provision made)

1. Finish transgression (= violation of law) —ends rebellion.

2. Put end to sin

– general reference to sin – provision to remove sin

3. Atonement for wickedness – “cover over” evil; pay sin's penalty

3 goals related to establishing Kingdom-2nd coming:

1. Bring in everlasting righteousness

2. "Seal up" vision & prophecy.

"Seal up" can have 2 senses:

– to close it up – i.e., to limit access to it – cp. Dan. 12

– to ratify, confirm, assure it – cp. Dan. 9

Ezek 28 "Thou sealest up the sum" – *epitome* of something
=> Climax of all the prophets promised for God's people.

3. Anoint the most holy

Could be most holy place = "Holy of Holies" => Reestablish temple.

Could be Most Holy One = Christ (Messiah)

Summary of God's plan 25-27 25 *"Know therefore & understand that from the going out of word to restore & build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there'll be 7 weeks. Then for 62 weeks it'll be built again with squares & moat, but in troubled time."*

From decree to rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah arrives = 7 + 62 "weeks" (= set of 7 [yrs])

Subdivision isn't explained.

Extends to ± end of century; end of construction period (± 400 B.C.)

No significant event related to exact date.

Period of spiritual degeneration & divine silence follows (434 yr.).

Begins with Decree of Artaxerxes to Nehemiah Mar. 5, 444 B.C.

- Refers to reconstruction of walls
- Notice reference to the city in 9:25
 - Rebuild Jerusalem
 - Build the plaza (or, streets) and trench (moat) around it (= walls?)
 - "In times of distress" => fits Nehemiah's time
- Date comes out exactly right.

Mar. 5, 444 B.C. + 69 weeks (= years of 360 days) = Mar. 30, A.D. 33 = 10th of Nisan, A.D. 33 = most likely date for Jesus' Triumphant Entry

26 *"After 62 weeks, anointed one shall be cut off & have nothing. The people of prince who is to come shall destroy city & sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, & to end there'll be war. Desolations are decreed."*

At end of 69 weeks,

- **Messiah will be cut off.**
- **Jerusalem will be destroyed.**

Don't miss OT evidence for Messiah's rejection & divine judgment!

How else can city be destroyed after His coming?!!!

27 *"He'll make strong covenant with many for 1 week; for ½ week he'll put an end to sacrifice & offering. On wing of abominations shall come 1 who makes desolate, until decreed end is poured out on the desolator."*

During last week a treaty will be made.

"He" = prince who will come (< people who destroy city)

Prince makes covenant

Prince breaks covenant at mid-week—stops sacrifice & offering

Prince who desolates will commit abominable acts

In end, prince will be judged.

How do we explain parenthesis between weeks 69-70?

*Doesn't this ruin 70 week schedule? Dan. 9 requires break. 26
 “After 62 weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off & have nothing.
 The people of prince who is to come shall destroy city & sanctuary.
 Its end shall come with a flood; to end there'll be war. Desolations
 are decreed.”*

After 62 weeks (7 + 62 = 69)

- Messiah is cut off = A.D. 33
- City and temple destroyed = A.D. 70
- Devastations—until end there's war (= A.D. 70, 135, or tribulation)

27 “And” = “Then” for another week the prince makes the covenant.

Daniel 9 requires parenthesis here.

This vision traces plan from Daniel's day,

–to day Christ rides into Jerusalem

–to day Christ's kingdom established (2000+ yrs later!)

**Vision reveals God's program for Israel
from time of Daniel
until establishment of kingdom**

[Shows that...] **FAITHFUL ULTIMATELY TRIUMPH!**

Where do we fit in this program?

69 weeks gone.

7 yr period yet to be fulfilled.

Begins with peace treaty.

After time of war & desolation...

Ruler of nation descended from Rome makes treaty with Israel.

After 3½ years, he turns on them, & stops worship

Interesting developments:

(SL Trib, July 21, 1994—note tone expressed!)

“Top-ranking cabinet ministers from Israel & Jordan met in public for 1st time... & pledged their countries will keep on course toward resolution of 46-yr conflict. ...meeting *intended as signal that **Arab-Israeli conflict is ended***; they foresee normal relations between their countries in future.

“These are critical moments historians shall cherish”... [Jordanian Prime Minister] said. “They’ll be recorded in annals of history for **they separate age between peace & war**. They might go further than expected toward ending state of war that’s existed between countries since Israel’s creation in 1948. [Sec. of State] ... hailed the meeting ... as major step toward resolving the bitter animosity that’s existed between Israel & its Arab neighbors, exposing the region to 5 wars over past 4½ decades.

One of most significant symbolic acts ... when Jordan’s king Hussein flew jet over Jerusalem, reveling in establishment of new peace!

Ezek 38-39: Israel attacked; they’re living in “*unwalled cities*.”

With Hussein flying overhead, they began cutting down barbed wire at Israel/Jordan border. *Is this establishment of “unwalled*

cities?” Is Israel taking down the protective shield? Why? It didn’t happen in ‘94!—if anything it’s gone backwards since!

Kind of article we can expect when Daniel’s prophecy *is* fulfilled.

It’s clear sign to be expected in development of God’s program—We could see it coming! Not direct scheduling overlap between God’s program for Israel & God’s program for the church! But, if signs promised for 2nd coming are evident, rapture must be near! ***The end is near!***

“Son of Man comes at a time that ye think not!”

As in Noah’s day, life goes on as usual.

People won’t expect it.

Then suddenly He’ll come! ARE YOU READY?!!!

FAITHFUL ULTIMATELY TRIUMPH!