

# “Prophecy Of The Coming Messiah”

## Daniel 9:20-27

Message by Michael J. Barnard

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**Teaching Aim:** To explore the prophecy of Daniel in **Daniel chapter 9** that pinpoints the First Advent of Jesus Christ and reveals the circumstances surrounding His Second Coming. To realize, if the prophecies surrounding the First Advent of Jesus Christ were that accurate, we have every reason to believe the prophecies surrounding His Second Coming will be just as accurate and just as real. To recognize that we can trust the Bible.

### **DIGGING DEEPER INTO GOD’S WORD (*BIBLE STUDY*)**

#### **Part I: The angel Gabriel appears with God’s answer to Daniel’s prayer (Dan. 9:20-23)**

1. What truth did Daniel come to understand as he read **Jeremiah 25:12 and 29:10** in the Hebrew Scriptures? (See **Dan. 9:1-2**) Why do you think the prophecies of Jeremiah were so inviting to Daniel, especially since he discovered them after living 67 years in Babylon during the Babylonian captivity? Approximately how old was Daniel at the time of his prayer in **Daniel chapter 9**? How old was Daniel when he first arrived in Babylon? (See **Dan. 1:1-8**)
2. What did Daniel do once he realized the 70 years of captivity were almost over and the Jewish people still had not repented from their sin (**vs. 3**)? As we rapidly approach the end times, do you see true repentance happening in our own country? What do you see? Do you know of any Christians who are fervently praying for our country in the same way that Daniel did? If not, why aren’t people praying? Is it that we don’t see the signs of the times?
3. It’s been said that it takes only three minutes to read through Daniel’s prayer in the Hebrew language. According to **verses 20 & 21**, who arrived from heaven even before Daniel finished praying? Where else do we find the angel Gabriel in Scripture? (See **Dan. 8:16; Luke 1:19, 26**) What unique roll does Gabriel play every time we see him in the Bible (**vs. 22**)? What is usually his subject matter? Who is the only other “good” angel to be named in the Bible? (See **Jude 9**)
4. How would you define the word “*supplication*” (**vs. 23**)? (See Dictionary) How does this word relate to our prayers today? What special word of encouragement did Daniel receive from the angel Gabriel? Daniel was informed that he was greatly beloved and then he was given a vision. Who in the New Testament was called “*the one that Jesus loved?*” (See **John 13:23; 19:26; 20:2**) In what ways were the prophetic ministries of Daniel and the Apostle John similar?

- Daniel mourned as he prayed over the years that the Israelites had violated the law by failing to honor the Sabbath rest on the land during the Sabbath years according to God's law. (See **Lev. 25:1-13**) Judah would be taken into the Babylonian Captivity for 70 years as a result. As Daniel was looking back into history, Gabriel brought him a glimpse of when the Messiah would appear upon the earth at both His First and Second Coming (**vv. 23-24**). Why is **Daniel chapter 9** important to us today? Do you find it encouraging to see timelines in the Bible? Why?

## Part II: Gabriel reveals the future to Daniel (**Dan. 9:24-25**)

- How many days are there in 70 weeks (**vs. 24**)? Since each day represents one year in this prophecy, how many years are represented by the number of days in 70 weeks? In **verse 24** the angel Gabriel shared six things that would be accomplished before the prophesied 490 years are over, what are they?
 

1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	6.
- The first three things to be accomplished in **verse 24** relate to sin; the last three righteousness and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth. What major event in world history "*finished the transgression,*" "*made an end to sins,*" and "*brought reconciliation for iniquity (or wickedness)*?" (See Commentaries) What does the cross mean to you?
- What must happen in order for "*everlasting righteousness*" to come to the world (**vs. 24**)? Why would "*vision and prophecy be sealed up*?" What will this time in history be called? (See **Rev. 20:1-6**) What does "*anointing the Most Holy*" refer to? (See Commentaries)
- Historically there are four decrees that could possibly be the starting point of this prophecy: 1) The decree of Cyrus in **Ezra 1**; 2) The decree of Darius in **Ezra 6**; 3) The decree of Artaxerxes in **Ezra 7**; or 4) The decree of Artaxerxes in **Neh. 2**. What key information do we find in **verse 25** that helps us determine the right decree? Which of the four decrees is the correct one and what year was it issued? (See Bible Commentaries)
- In **verse 25b**, we are given the timeline in which the prophecy will be fulfilled. What is that timeline? If each week stands for seven years, how much time is referred to here? What events took place during the seven weeks (or forty-nine years) of **verse 25b**? What two Old Testament books most likely relate to this time period? (See Commentaries)

### **Part III: The death of Messiah; the destruction of the temple; and coming of the Antichrist (Dan. 9:26-27)**

1. What major event will take place at the end of the “*seven weeks and sixty-two weeks*” period in the prophecy according to **verse 26a**? The Messiah being “*cut off*” is a reference to Christ’s death on the cross. Most scholars believe Jesus was crucified sometime between A.D. 30-33. If the starting date of this prophecy was the signing of King Artaxerxes’ decree in **Nehemiah 2** (445 B.C.), what is the ending date after conversion from the Jewish lunar calendar (360 days per year) to our modern Gregorian calendar (365.2421 days per year)? (See Commentaries)
2. **Verse 26** says, “*Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself.*” Did Jesus die for Himself or for the sins of the world? (See **1 John 2:2**). How do you see this prophecy being fulfilled during the First Advent of Christ? (See **Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 5:8-9**)
3. The angel Gabriel continued in **verse 26**, “*...and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.*” What prince came to Jerusalem one generation (approximately 40 years) after the crucifixion of Jesus Christ? What empire was he prince over? What happened to the city of Jerusalem and the temple of God in A.D. 70? Following the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and the diaspora, how long would it take before Israel was finally back in the Promised Land as a nation? Should this be a sign to Christians today that the end is near? Why or why not?
4. Between **verses 26 & 27**, we find a void of thousands of years before the final week of Gabriel’s prophecy: the 7 year tribulation (or “*the time of Jacob’s Trouble*”). This void is often called “*the Church Age*” or “*the Age of Grace*,” which includes that period between the cross of Christ and the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel (or the tribulation period). Once the final week of Gabriel’s prophecy arrives, who will affirm a covenant with the nation of Israel at the beginning of the week (**vs. 27**)? What do you think will be accomplished through this covenant? What will the Antichrist do in the middle of this week? (See **2 Thess. 2:3-12**) What other historical leader was evil in a similar way to the Antichrist, but this during in the days of the Maccabees (175-164 B.C.)? (See Commentaries). What did this evil man do? What Jewish holiday is related to the cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem following the desecration caused by this man? What is the miracle of Hannukah? (Hint: Search online)
5. What is “*the abomination of desolation*” spoken of in **Mark 13:14**? How bad will those days be according to Jesus in **Mark 13:12-20**?

6. Does knowing what's coming in the future encourage you to reach others people for Christ today? How many people have you shared the gospel of Christ with during the past year? How many during the last month? If you are not sharing the good news of Jesus Christ with others, why aren't you? What key elements of the gospel do you see in the following verses? (See **1 Cor. 15:3-4; John 3:16; Rom. 5:8-9; John 14:6; Acts 4:12**)
7. Have you received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord? If not, why not repent of your sin and receive Jesus Christ in prayer right now as Savior and Lord?

**MINER'S CORNER ~ *Manna to live by!***

- God hears and answers the prayers of those who are in a right relationship with Him.
- Our prayers are not always answered on the timetable that we would like.
- In this case, Daniel was in a right relationship with God; it appears God answered his prayers within only a few minutes.
- We have our own ideas about what is best for us, but God knows the end from the beginning and is always at work in the lives of believers for our good. (See **Rom. 8:28**)
- The seventy weeks of years prophecy gives us a timeline for the First Advent of Jesus Christ.
- The Antichrist will be very powerful in the end times, yet Christ at His Second Coming will consume him with the breath of His mouth and destroy him with the brightness of His coming.
- Because of the accuracy of Bible prophecy (as verified through history, archeology, and the truth of the Bible's teachings), you can trust both God and His Word with your life!