

## **“SEVENTY WEEKS OF YEARS, II.”**

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**April 2, 2017, 6:00PM**

**Scripture Texts: Daniel 9:24-27**

### **Introduction.**

While Daniel was praying and confessing his sin and the sins of his people, and asking God how long until the end of the 70 years of exile and desolations of Jerusalem and the temple, God sent the archangel Gabriel to answer Daniel’s prayer and give him understanding concerning what was to come.

Daniel had only been praying for himself and the people of Israel. Daniel had only been inquiring about the 70 years of Babylonian exile. Daniel had only been reminding God of His promises to Israel at this point in history.

The answer he got far exceeded all he could ask or imagine, far exceeded his wildest dreams and visions. The answer he got pushed the very limits of his understanding and beyond.

Daniel was thinking about himself and his people, God was thinking about all of humanity. Daniel was thinking about 70, God was thinking about 70 sevens, 70 years of sevens (490 years). Daniel was thinking about going back to Jerusalem, rebuilding the Temple with its sacrifices. God was thinking about destroying Jerusalem and the Temple again and abolishing sacrifices forever.

Let’s return to verse 24 and focus our attention there tonight.

### **The six-fold purpose of the Seventy Weeks of Seven.**

**Daniel 9:24** Seventy weeks [sevens] are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

This verse sums up the goal of history. This is what all the OT points forward to and what all of the NT and the church point back to. It is entirely right that we should mark our calendars according to the birth of Christ. He is the central figure and the central point of history. He is the pinnacle, the climax of human history.

One verse buried in the OT, in a 2,500 year old document, captures what has been anticipated and waited for since Genesis 3:15 when God said the head of the serpent would be crushed.

This text announces the ultimate consummation of the cosmic anticipation of the coming of a great Messiah. This is the desire and hope and destiny of all nations.

Gabriel summarizes six astonishing results of the Messiah's coming. This is a remarkably complete OT prophecy about the work of Jesus Christ on earth, over 500 years before it happens.

This a Christ-saturated passage, no one else but Jesus could do and fulfil what this predicts. These six phrases capture the radical nature of God's grace toward all mankind.

The *first three are negative*, dealing with the problem of sin, the *second three are positive*, dealing with the restoration of righteousness and the fulfilment of God's promises.

Take these to heart, these are our spiritual blessings in this life and in the life to come. This is what Jesus has done for us, the most unworthy of sinners.

**Ephesians 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.

*Transgression will be finished.*

Israel's long history of rebellion and disobedience, will come to an end with Israel's rejection of their Messiah when they crucify him. That's the final straw for Israel and in 70 AD the Temple is destroyed and her religion is finished.

In the fullness of time, when her sins are filled up, and the transgressions of Israel are complete, God acts.

Remember the parable of the vineyard owner who sends servant after servant to receive his due and finally sends his son, thinking surely they will listen to him. They killed God's messengers the prophets and finally they killed his Son. The stone they rejected will become the cornerstone of God's Kingdom among the Gentiles.

*Sin will be put to end.*

The sting and power of sin and death will be defeated. Guilt and shame and condemnation will be broken.

Jesus declares from the cross, "It is finished." The blood of Jesus so thoroughly covers all sin as to destroy it. Red blood washes whiter than snow.

**Hebrews 9:26** He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.

***Wickedness will be atoned for.***

This event was foreshadowed in the OT when once a year on the day of Atonement the high priest took the blood of the sacrifice beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies and sprinkled the blood on the Mercy Seat.

The perfect atoning suffering and sacrifice for sin will be offered by Jesus and accepted by God, His righteous and just wrath will be appeased once and for all. God's alienation with man is finished. Reconciliation is possible through the blood of Jesus.

***Everlasting righteousness will be ushered in.***

The atonement makes reconciliation and righteousness possible. The perfect righteousness of Christ is imputed to unrighteous sinners. A righteousness outside of us is brought to us, apart from the law, apart from works, apart from our efforts and ability.

This is the answer to the prayer, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done. It is the establishing of the kingdom of God under the everlasting righteous rule of God.

***The vision and the prophecy will be sealed and completed.***

There are two aspects to understanding this.

First, in Jesus the seal of authentication is placed on all OT prophecy; what the prophets said will be shown to be true, stamped with the seal of authentication.

Second, the time of OT prophecy comes to an end in the coming of the Christ, the prophet of God. The prophetic and priest offices come to an end. There is no need for any more prophecy or divine revelation. The time of the prophets was to point to and prepare the way for the Messiah.

**Luke 18:31** And taking the twelve, he said to them, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.

**Luke 24:44** Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

Jesus is God's last word. In Christ all the promise of God are Yes and Amen. He is the fulfilment.

### *The most holy will be anointed.*

Dispensationalists and premillennialist and others argue this refers to a future temple. Many people who are into the end times say a temple must be rebuilt in Jerusalem again.

But consider, first in Daniel 9:26-27 the temple is destroyed (70 AD).

Second, in these same verses an anointed one is mentioned.

Third, Christ is called the Holy One, and He is anointed at His baptism.

**Acts 10:38** God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.

**John 2:19** Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

When we read in vs. 26 that the city and the sanctuary or the holy place, will be destroyed by hostile forces trying to put an end to the true worship of God, Gabriel is saying that won't be the end. God will anoint a most holy. Meaning Jesus will be the holy one and the holy place.

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt [tabernacled] among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

God wanted Daniel to see the rebuilding of his beloved Jerusalem and the reestablishing of the true worship of Yahweh. But God also wanted Daniel to see what that foreshadowed, what it anticipated. God's ultimate purpose was not a temple made with human hands.

These are the great benefits of the coming of the Messiah, and the good news of all these things has gone out from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth. Today we are the recipients of this good news and of these great spiritual blessings.

The day is coming and now is when wickedness, iniquity and rebellion would be atoned for and God would usher in everlasting righteousness, sanctifying His people to be a holy nation, sealing up, vindicating and affirming the great promises and prophecies of our covenant making God.

### **The Year of God's Jubilee (Leviticus 25:8-10; Hebrews 4:6-12).**

I want to close by showing why I think all of this happened in the seventieth week of the seventy weeks of years.

There is a pattern in Scripture of sevens.

Each week's seventh day is a day of rest when we acknowledge all we have and are is God's.

Each seventh year, was a Sabbath year, acknowledging the land is God's.  
Each year after seven weeks of years, was a Jubilee.

This is described in Leviticus 25 and 27:

**Leviticus 25:8-10** “You shall count seven weeks of years, seven times seven years, so that the time of the *seven weeks of years* shall give you forty-nine years. 9 Then you shall sound the loud trumpet on the tenth day of the seventh month. On the Day of Atonement you shall sound the trumpet throughout all your land. 10 And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a *jubilee* for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his clan.

Notice the year of Jubilee began on the tenth day of the seventh month, the day of Atonement.

God's people were to rest on the seventh day and God's land was to rest on the seventh year (Lev 25:2-7) and then after seven weeks of years, there was a year of redemption and restoration, a year of jubilee.

It was a general emancipation declaration, Israelite slaves were freed, land was fallowed, ownership was restored to original owners and ancestral lines and lands were restored, debts were canceled. This was a reminder that the land and the people belonged to God.

This is like pushing reset. In this year everything is restored, made right, put back to the way it was originally meant to be. Losses are made up, debts forgiven, what was broken is reconciled.

The seventieth seven in Daniel 9:27 is a kind of Jubilee week in history when God resets and restores things to their proper condition.

*The ultimate Jubilee is Christ.*

With the death and resurrection of Jesus the new covenant in His blood has been confirmed and the new Kingdom of God has come. The Jubilee trumpet has sounded and sin and death are defeated.

By His death the old is done, the sacrifices are rendered worthless because they are redundant. Jesus has paid the price in full. The temple in Jerusalem was obsolete when the curtain was torn in two. God had left the Holy of Holies, never to return.

The whole idea of Sabbath points to a Messiah, to a consummation of history. To a time of ultimate rest, wholeness, completeness, redemptions, restoration. Returning to how things originally were meant to be. It marked a new beginning.

Isaiah announces this year and Jesus reads it in the synagogue as speaking of Him and His work.

**Isaiah 61:1-2** The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn;

**Luke 4:20-21** And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Jesus inaugurates the Jubilee year of God, the year of God's favor.

Christ ushers in two Jubilees.

The first Jubilee is His first coming, bringing redemption from sin and guilt. The second Jubilee is His second coming, bringing redemption from all of sin's consequences, sin, death, evil, suffering, groaning.

**Isaiah 63:10** In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

**Hebrews 4:9-10** So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, 10 for whoever has entered God's rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

Our Sabbaths are meant to be a glimpse, a taste of the ultimate Sabbath rest that is coming, which we will share with God.

Sabbath reminds us all life is oriented toward a Messiah who ushers in rest and Jubilee.

Sabbath reminds us our toil and suffering have a goal and an end.

Sabbath reminds us God is bringing all things to a completion.

Sabbath reminds us what God has ultimately created us for.

In the last days a trumpet will sound announcing the coming of Jubilee, the true and final Sabbath rest, announcing the ceasing of our toil and the completion of our redemption. Don't fail to enter into God's Sabbath rest, as the people of Israel failed to enter into their rest, because of their rebellion, unbelief, and disobedience.