

## **The Book of Daniel**

### **Seventy Sevens For Your People and Your Holy City**

Daniel 9:20-27

#### 1. **Daniel Receives a Revelation from God** (Dan. 9:20-27)

##### A. **The Mediator of the Revelation** (Dan. 9:20-23)

Daniel received a direct answer from God who dispatched Gabriel to deliver it personally (cf. Acts 7:53; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2).

##### B. **The Subject of the Revelation** (Dan. 9:24)

The prophecy is concerned with Israel, not gentiles (cf. Dan. 7, 8), and is related to the completion of God's work.

I. To Bring Their Transgression of Apostasy to its End (cf. Dan. 9:11)

II. To Fully Judge Sin with Finality (cf. Heb. 9:26; 1 Cor. 15:24ff)

III. To Atonement for Iniquity (cf. Lev. 16:15-16; 1 Pet. 2:24)

IV. To Bring Everlasting Righteousness (cf. Rev 21:1ff)

V. To Seal Vision and Prophecy (i.e. no more revelation is needed when dwelling with God)

VI. To Anoint a Most Holy Place (a reference to the sanctifying of the center of worship in the kingdom)

##### C. **The Fulfillment of the Revelation** (Dan. 9:24-27)

I. Understanding The Sevens: The word translated as 'weeks' means 'sevens'. This word can refer to a group of seven years (Gen. 29:30; Lev. 25:8) or days (Gen. 7:10; Ex. 12:19). Daniel's prayer is centered around time measured in years (Dan. 9:2), and so it is most reasonable to understand these sevens as weeks of years. So "seventy sevens" would be 490 years.

II. The Decree: The period of time for the seventy weeks begins with a decree to rebuild Jerusalem (v.25), and there are generally four different decrees that have been put forward as being in view here.

a. The Decree of Cyrus (Ezra 1:2-4) in 538 b.c.

b. The Decree of Darius (Ezra 6:3-5) in 518/517 b.c.

c. The Decree of Artaxerxes (Ezra 7:11-26) in 458/457 b.c.

d. The Decree of Artaxerxes (Neh. 2:1-8) in 445/444 b.c.

#### III. The Calculation:

It may seem rather simple and straight forward to calculate the date of "Messiah the prince" (v.25). There is much debate and discussion of whether the time should be calculated in terms of solar years, lunar years, or some other form of calculation.

#### IV. The Division:

The first 69 weeks appear to be continuous with something notable happening at the end of the first seven weeks (v.25). Verse 26 indicates actions that happen after the previous 69 weeks but before the final week (v.27).