

## IMMERSE: PROPHETS

Week 12 - The Beginning!

September 3, 2023

No portion of the OT unlocks God's prophetic plan for Israel and the nations as much as the book of Daniel!!

We understand from the book of Daniel...

- God's faithfulness to His covenant promises for Israel. Judgment/discipline is followed by RESTORATION.
- God brought Daniel, a faithful Jewish man, to a Gentile nation as a witness. And, Daniel was an outstanding example of godliness to his Jewish brethren in exile with him.
- The book of Daniel graphically lays out Gentile history which is known in Scripture as "the times of the Gentiles" which continues on through to the end of the tribulation (Rev. 11:2) while Israel waits for God's covenants to be fulfilled.
- Nebuchadnezzar's dream of the image speaks to the Gentile empires (Babylon, Medo Persia, Greece, Rome, antichrist's kingdom).
- "The Times of the Gentiles" explain a time in which Jerusalem is under the dominion of Gentile authority.
- The book of Daniel is written in two languages: Hebrew (Dan. 1:1 through Dan. 2:4a and Daniel chapters 8 through 12; and in Aramaic (Dan. 2:4b through Dan. 7:28). Hebrew was the language of Israel. Aramaic was the language of the Gentile world. From the two languages we understand the two major emphases in Daniel: God's program for the Gentile nations contained in Dan. 2:4b through Dan. 7:28; and God's program for the nation Israel in Dan. 1:1 through Dan. 2:4a and Dan. 8 through Dan. 12.
- Moses had told the children of Israel that their obedience to God would bring blessings and disobedience would bring discipline. One form of discipline – being removed from their land and scattered throughout the world (Deut. 28:64ff).
- Deut. 30:1-6 – God told Israel to return to God, obey His voice, and He would bring her back into her land. God called upon Israel to repent (Isa. 55:6-7; Jer. 3:6-25; Hosea 5:15; Joel 2:12ff). Scripture tells us that those who enter the Kingdom of God must be born again (John 3:3 – Nicodemus); Matt. 5:3 - the poor in spirit – spiritually bankrupt – theirs is the Kingdom of heaven/Kingdom of God! Matt. 25:31-46 – judgment of the nations at the end of the tribulation - sheep and goats.
- The book of Daniel speaks of when and how the Kingdom of God will be established.

Dan. 2:31-35, 45 - *You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. <sup>32</sup> This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, <sup>33</sup> its legs of*

*iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.* <sup>34</sup> *You watched while a stone (Psa. 118:22 - The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.; Isa. 8:14 - a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense; Isa. 28:16 - Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily [will not be put to shame]) was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.* <sup>35</sup> *Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind*

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*carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain (kingdom) and filled the whole earth....*<sup>45</sup> *Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure.*

Jesus will establish the Kingdom of God at the end of the tribulation...at the end of the Gentile empires. He will establish it instantaneously (as opposed to gradually). He will establish it dramatically/supernaturally on earth. The Kingdom of God will fill the whole earth!

The Kingdom of Judah was taken into exile in Babylon due to disobeying God's Sabbath law for the land (Lev. 25:1-4). The people did not let the land lie fallow one year out of every 7 years. During 490 years of Israel's history, Israel did NOT allow the land to rest (Lev. 26:33-35; II Chron. 36:21). And so, Israel would remain in exile in Babylon for a total of 70 years.

Daniel 9:2 - *I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.*

Jer. 25:11 - *this whole land shall be a desolation and an astonishment, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years.* Jeremiah's prophecy had revealed God's plan for Israel only up to the end of the 70-year Babylonian captivity. Daniel wanted to know what would transpire after the 70 years of exile. The seventy years would soon come to an end. Israel, as a nation had not yet repented. Throughout the OT, God told the nation of Israel that they needed to repent: Isa. 55:6-7; Jer. 3:6-25; Hosea 5:15; Joel 2:12ff.

Daniel's thoughts: how could God bring these unrepentant people back to the land? Daniel, as a faithful Jew, was fully aware of Moses' instructions to the people in the book of Deuteronomy (Deut. 30:1-6). And so we find Daniel in prayer, exalting God and confessing his sins and the sins of the people (Dan. 9:3-7, 16-19).

Dan. 9:20-23 – (READ)

## Daniel 9:24-27 – The 70-Week Prophecy

Backbone of Prophecy - The backbone serves to keep the body balanced and upright. Daniel's 70-week prophecy concerns Israel, the Messiah, and the antichrist. It addresses end times. Dan. 9:24-27 is the foundation for end times prophecy. Therefore, all end times prophecy must align with Daniel's 70-week prophecy!

Dan. 9:24 - *Seventy weeks (70 sevens [Shavuot in Hebrew]) are determined (carved out) for your people (the Jewish people) and for your holy city (Jerusalem), to finish the transgression to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity...to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.* Gabriel was sent by God to reveal His program for Israel following the 70 years in Babylon!!! Gabriel was specific re: what would be accomplished at the end of 70 sevens – which equates to 490 years.

God is giving the Jewish people back the 490 years they lost through disobedience! Restoration! God's grace! God's faithfulness to His covenant promises to Israel.

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Regarding the accomplishments noted in God's plan for Israel during the 490 years...the first three accomplishments refer to Jesus' first coming when at the cross, He made reconciliation for sin.

The second three accomplishments refer to Jesus' second coming when He will establish the Millennial Kingdom on earth and reign in Jerusalem, bringing in everlasting righteousness. The Abrahamic covenant will be fulfilled. And the Millennial Temple will be built

The 490-year time period is divided into 3 segments:

7 sevens = 49 years (7 X 7)

62 sevens = 434 years (62 X 7)

TOTAL – up to Jesus' triumphal entry...

483 YEARS

1 seven = 7 years (1 X 7)

TOTAL: 490 YEARS

Dan. 9:25a - *Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince...* (there are two princes in this prophecy)

The starting point of the 70-week prophecy – when Artaxerxes of Persia made a decree giving Nehemiah permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the walls in 444/445 B.C. (Neh. 2:1-8). ...*until Messiah the Prince* brings us to when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey, when the people hailed Jesus as King...4 days before Jesus' crucifixion.

There were 7 weeks/49 years given to restoring and building Jerusalem. And then there shall be 62 weeks/434 years *until Messiah the Prince* at His triumphal entry. From 444 BC to "Lamb Selection Day" will equate to 69 weeks/483 years.

Luke 19:41-44 - *Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, <sup>42</sup> saying, 'If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes... because you did not know the time of your visitation' – the time of JESUS' visitation based on Dan. 9:25 – until Messiah the Prince (arriving approx. 31 AD!!!)*

The 483 years bring us to the introduction of Jesus at His triumphal entry. The 69 weeks out of the 70 weeks conclude before Jesus' crucifixion. We then we read in Dan. 9:26a - "*And after the sixty-two weeks (total of 69 weeks) Messiah shall be cut off (executed; die), but not for Himself...* The Messiah died for others. At this time He did NOT establish the Kingdom of God on earth. Jesus was not crowned the King of the Kingdom of God at His triumphal entry. While many Jewish people placed their trust in Jesus as their Messiah, the nation as a whole rejected Jesus as their Messiah. The establishing of the Kingdom of God on earth with Jesus as King was postponed!

Dan. 9:26b - *and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

After the 69 weeks we read of the Messiah dying. And then we jump ahead to the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple which occurred in 70 AD. We were at 483 years with Jesus riding into Jerusalem at "Lamb Selection Day." But we jumped ahead 37 to 40 years?

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The weeks were running consecutively with no time in between. Where's the 70<sup>th</sup> week? Is there an INTERVAL between the 69 weeks and the last week – the 70<sup>th</sup> week? WHY?

Dan. 9:26b - *and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.*

The prince who is to come (in the FUTURE) will be connected to the people who will destroy Jerusalem and the Temple in 70 AD – the Romans.

NOTE: After the 69 weeks (483 years), after Jesus' death, there is no mention of the 70<sup>th</sup> week as yet). SO – we don't know when the 70<sup>th</sup> week will occur? WHY is there a GAP?

Matt. 12 – the rejection of Jesus by the religious leadership;

WHAT is in the GAP? WHO's in the GAP? Where do we find that Scripture? Matt. 13 – Jesus teaching on what would occur between His first and second comings due to the postponement of the Kingdom of God. Isa. 53/Matt. 27 & 28 – Jesus' crucifixion, resurrection, commissioning of the apostles; Acts 1 – Jesus' ascension.

Where's the plan for Israel that Daniel requested?

Gabriel laid it out. It's going to occur – it is ASSURED! It's recorded in Scripture which is inspired by God the Holy Spirit.

God's clock for Israel paused after the 483 years until.... One week – 7 years – plays out on earth!

Dan. 9:27 - *Then he* (antecedent – goes back to the prince who is to come – the antichrist) *shall confirm a covenant* (treaty) *with many for one week* (7 years); *but in the middle of the week* (3.5 years into the seven years) *he* (antichrist) *shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolater.*

This 7-year period will occur following the rapture of the Church. The Church Age is in the GAP.

It appears that the antichrist will grant peace and protection on Israel and will restore their sacrificial system. And Israel will fully accept his treaty. (Dan. 11:45 – antichrist will move from Europe into the land of Israel.)

Three and a half years into the tribulation (note Rev. 6:2 – rider on a white horse, a bow with no arrows), the antichrist will put an end to the temple (II Thess. 2:4) sacrifices and offerings.

Antichrist will place abominations in the Temple (Matt. 24:15-25 – [READ]).

Dan. 12:8 – Daniel asked Gabriel, *what shall be the end of these things?* Daniel desired to know God's plan for Israel beyond the tribulation. That information had been given to Daniel with the dream/vision of the stone smashing the Gentile empires and setting up the Kingdom of God.

Dan. 12:9-10 - *Go your way, Daniel, for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end. <sup>10</sup> Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.*

In the last chapters of Ezekiel, we are given much information concerning the Millennial Kingdom/the Kingdom of God.

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The glory of God had departed from the Temple in Jerusalem due to the many abominations/idols that were set up by the Israelites in the Temple (Eze. 8 through 11). How that must have grieved God! In Ex. 25:8 God expressed to Moses His desire to dwell with His people. *And let them make Me a sanctuary, that I may dwell among them.*

Two results from the War of Gog and Magog, the nations will see God's glory (Eze. 39:21-24) and Israel will turn back to her God (Eze. 39:22).

In the last nine chapters of Ezekiel, a new temple will be built as a sign of God's presence among His people (Eze. 40-43).

The prelude to Israel's judgment began with God's glory departing from Solomon's temple in Jerusalem (Eze. 8-11). The climax to Israel's restoration as a nation will come when God's glory reenters the new temple in Jerusalem (Eze. 43:1-5).

In describing the gates of the new city of Jerusalem (this is NOT the New Jerusalem in the eternal state), Ezekiel brought the city "full circle" from what it was at the beginning of his book. The city doomed for destruction will be restored to glory.

The most remarkable aspect of the new city of Jerusalem will be the presence of the Lord. God's return will signal Jerusalem's blessing. And, the city will be given a new name: YHWH Shammah - THE LORD *IS* THERE. This final verse in the book of Ezekiel provides us with the final consummation of Israel's history: the returned presence of the LORD.