

## THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW – THE OLIVET DISCOURSE

### YOUR KINGDOM COME...ON EARTH – Fall 2022

“...whoever reads, let him understand” Matt. 24:15b

Week 6 – Daniel’s 70 Weeks Prophecy

October 18, 2022

During Week 1 we quickly discussed Daniel 9 and Daniel 10 as we understood the importance of asking God to cause our hearts to understand His word. God sent the angel Gabriel to Daniel to give Daniel skill in understanding the prophecy of the 70 sevens that God has determined/carved out for Israel – for Israel’s restoration!

Daniel’s 70 Weeks Prophecy is the backbone of end times prophecy. WHY? The backbone keeps the body balanced and upright. All end times prophecies taught in Scripture must align with Daniel’s end times prophecy!

Matt. 24:4-28 (the Olivet Discourse) refers to the 7-year Tribulation. In order to understand the time elements in the Tribulation, it’s necessary to go back to Daniel’s 70 Weeks Prophecy (Dan. 9:24-27 – 4 verses) where the chronology of Israel’s future history is outlined. Welcome to Daniel’s 70 Weeks Prophecy!

#### Dan. 9:24-27

*Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, 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.*

*<sup>25</sup> Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince,*

*There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. <sup>26</sup> And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;*

*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.*

*<sup>27</sup> Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week he 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 desolate.*

This pointed prophecy reveals a deadly serious spiritual battle between God and Satan! In Scripture, we read of the death of the Messiah, the destruction of Jerusalem, and the coming of the antichrist. This battle is a continuation of what has been transpiring since the fall of man...but INTENSIFYING! BUT WE KNOW JESUS WINS!

No portion of the OT unlocks the mysteries of God’s prophetic/future plan for Israel and the nations as the book of Daniel. Daniel 2:4 through to Daniel 7:28 is written in Aramaic as it focuses on the Gentile. The rest is in Hebrew. Daniel’s 9:24-27 provides the chronological key to Bible prophecy. This prophecy concerns both the beginning and ending of “the desolation of Jerusalem” (from

the Babylonian conquest to the physical second coming of Jesus) and defines that period as “the times of the Gentiles” (Luke 21:24).

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- Daniel’s prophecy is referred to as “The 70 Weeks Prophecy.” This name is derived from the opening words,
- In Hebrew, the word translated “weeks” is *Shavuot* which means “sevens.” The Hebrew in Daniel’s prophecy actually states, “Seventy sevens have been decreed . . .”
  - In Daniel 9, God gave to Daniel the promise for him and his people and for the city of Jerusalem 70 “weeks”/70 sevens - of YEARS.  $70 \times 7 = 490$  years!
  - How are we so sure that it’s 70 weeks of YEARS? In Daniel 9 we see Daniel reading from the prophet Jeremiah’s scroll about the 70 year exile of the Jewish people in Babylon.
    - These seventy sevens of 7-YEAR weeks totaled 490 years. Every week equated to 7 years.  $70 \times 7 \text{ years} = 490 \text{ years!}$
    - Gabriel told Daniel that God had determined/carved out 490 years specifically for the people of Israel and for Jerusalem!
    - This 70 Weeks Prophecy is “God’s calendar for Israel” It does not focus on the Gentiles or the Church.
    - Scriptural backstory: God had given the Jewish people the Sabbath law for the land (Lev. 25:1-8). The people were to sow their fields for six years. In the seventh year there would be a Sabbath of rest for the land. They were not to plant and harvest. They were to let the field rest. Bottom line: they were to depend upon God for their provision!
      - BUT, for a total of 490 years, Israel had disregarded God’s command to let the land rest. And so...
      - For 70 years the Kingdom of Judah had been taken captive to Babylon so that their land, in Israel, would enjoy her Sabbaths – so that their land would rest!

II Chron. 36:21 - *to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had enjoyed her Sabbaths. As long as she lay desolate she kept Sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.*

- And through this 70 Weeks Prophecy, what is God promising Israel and Jerusalem? Restoration!! Another 490 years! What Israel wasted in those 490 years of not obeying the Sabbath rest for the land, God is giving them back 490 years!? What a merciful and gracious God we trust in and worship and serve!
- With the full completion of the whole period of the Seventy Weeks, there will be ushered in a time of great and unparalleled blessings for the nation of Israel which will impact the world.
- Let’s look again at Israel’s restoration:
  - *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*

○ The six promised blessings are related to the two works of the Messiah. His death and His reign! The first three have reference to the sacrifice of Jesus which speaks to the removal of sin. The second three have reference to the sovereignty of the Messiah which speaks to the establishment of His kingdom.

- This prophecy anticipates the entire work of the Messiah.
- In understanding this prophecy literally, the entire 490 years, let's consider the entire events that the prophecy covers and what will INDEED transpire: the rebuilding of

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Jerusalem, the first coming of Jesus (specifically His triumphal entry into Jerusalem), Jesus' crucifixion, the destruction of Jerusalem, and the rebuilding again of Jerusalem, and the tribulation – there is no way that the 70 weeks equates to 490 days! It must be 490 years!

#### Unfolding Fulfillment of the 70 Weeks Prophecy

- The starting point of the 70 Weeks Prophecy is based on the command “to restore and build Jerusalem.” (Dan. 9:25) - *Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem*
- The King of Persia, Artaxerxes, gave Nehemiah permission, safe passage and supplies to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city and the walls in 445 B.C. (Nehemiah 2:1-8).
- That rebuilding was completed at the end of the first 49 years of this prophecy (7 weeks).

Let's look at the timing of the Messiah. From the command to restore and rebuild the city and the walls....

Dan. 9:25 - *Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks (a total of 69 weeks), the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.*

This brings us to a total of 69 weeks;  $69 \times 7 = 483 \text{ years}$ . We read of Messiah the Prince which brings us to Lamb Selection Day (Palm Sunday) when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey, when the people hailed Jesus as King! Jesus' last earthly visit to Jerusalem was God's plan. Jesus entered into Jerusalem to proclaim His Messiahship and to receive His sentence of death (Acts 4:27-28).

At 69 weeks “Messiah the Prince,” Jesus, rode into Jerusalem on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of Nisan, Lamb Selection Day on the Jewish calendar. This was 483 years after the command in Nehemiah.

From 445 BC, the starting point of this 70-week prophecy, until the accomplishment of the six goals stated in Dan. 9:24 that will bring Israel to the Millennial Kingdom – to restoration... **will all be fulfilled in 490 years?** REALLY?

The seventy weeks are divided into three parts:

- Seven weeks – 49 years...until the city and its walls are rebuilt.
- 62 weeks – (7 weeks plus 55 weeks = 62 weeks) – 483 years from the decree until Messiah the Prince enters Jerusalem on Lamb Selection Day.
- **GAP** – duration unknown.
- 70<sup>th</sup> week – to complete the prophecy and bring restoration!

Daniel 9:26 - After 69 weeks (483 years), *the Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; 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*

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determined.: Following 483 years after the command in Neh. 2:1-8, “Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself. “Cut off” – executed for the sake of others.

- We do not read as yet about the last “week” of 7 years.
- Yet, we read next about the destruction of the city, Jerusalem, and the sanctuary, the Temple, which occurred in 70 AD – approx. 38 years following Jesus’ crucifixion!

○ THE TIMING OF THE MESSIAH’S ARRIVAL AT HIS FIRST COMING: Dan. 9:26 - *And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. History documents the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD by the Romans – approximately 38 years following Jesus’ crucifixion according to this verse in Daniel! The OT proclaims that the Messiah had to come BEFORE the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 AD!!!!!!!!!!*

What happened to the FLOW of the 70 weeks?

- What happened to the 70<sup>th</sup> week – the last week of the 70 weeks?
- We’re looking at a GAP after Jesus presented Himself as Messiah the Prince at Lamb Selection Day. There’s a gap between “Messiah the Prince” and when “the prince who is to come” makes a covenant with the many/Israel which is still future. The covenant made with Israel which will allow sacrifices to be offered launches the Tribulation.

- Tribulation Temple/third temple is implied in Dan. 9:27 and in Dan. 12:11.

The temple is referenced in II Thess. 2:4, Rev. 11:1-2.

NOTE: “The prince who is to come” is the antichrist (Daniel 8:23-25 and Daniel 11:36-39 speak to the Antichrist) and is connected to the Romans. A revived Roman Empire?

Daniel 9:27 - *Then he (referring to the prince who is to come) shall confirm (to make strong [to give strength to a covenant already in place?]) a covenant with many (more numerous than, abounding, abundant) for one week (for seven years); but in the middle of the week (after 3.5 years) He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the*

*wing* (outspreading) *of abominations* (violations of ritual purity in the Temple in Jerusalem which will convey horror re: the barbaric acts of worshipping the antichrist/the beast – leaving the Temple unfit for the worship of God and serving God in this place) *shall be one who makes desolate* (causes horror), *even until* (up to) *the consummation* (full end – what is determined in Dan. 9:24 – the goals/blessings laid out by God), *which is determined* (decided), *is poured out* (poured out; dropped on; melted in some way) *on the desolate* (on what is ruined).

- “Then” in v. 27 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> week. The beginning of this last week will be marked by the establishment of a firm covenant or treaty between the prince who is to come and the “many” for one week – 7 years.
  - The prince who is to come appears to come from a revived Roman empire (Dan. 7:23-24) since Dan. 9:26 states that the prince to come is from Rome!
- The 70<sup>th</sup> week MUST be in the future. If the 70<sup>th</sup> week has already occurred, when was the other Temple built (in which Antichrist stops the sacrifices), and where is the everlasting righteous that v. 24 speaks to?

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- In the midst of the 70<sup>th</sup> week – 3.5 years into the 7 years – the coming prince will bring an end to sacrifice and offering.
- We don’t know when the third Temple will be built. We know from II Thess. 2:4 and Rev. 11:1-2 that it will be in operation at the point when the sacrifices cease.
- II Thess. 2:1-4 - *Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, (the rapture) we ask you, <sup>2</sup> not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. <sup>3</sup>Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day*

*will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, <sup>4</sup> who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.*

- The 70<sup>th</sup> week/7 years of Daniel is at the end of the age before Jesus Second Coming to the earth.
- Consider: Acts 1:6-8 - *Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?’ <sup>7</sup> And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.’* We see an entire age of undetermined duration between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks of the prophecy.

#### The importance of Daniel’s 70 Weeks Prophecy:

- It establishes the literal method of interpretation of prophecy.
- And the literal understanding of this prophecy is wrapped up in the literal history of the nation of Israel as the 69 weeks have already been fulfilled literally!
- The Church is not in this end times prophecy which addresses the Tribulation.

- We see an entire age of unknown duration between the 69<sup>th</sup> and 70<sup>th</sup> weeks of the prophecy.
- The 70<sup>th</sup> week is in the future, yet to be fulfilled.
- The prophecy of the 70 weeks provides a prophetic/future template (pattern) for eschatological revelations such as Jesus' Olivet Discourse in Matt. 24, Paul's "Day of the Lord" and discourse in II Thess. 2, and the wrath portion of the book of Revelation.

### QUESTIONS

What's your takeaway from Daniel's 70 Weeks Prophecy?

Any V8 moments?

What do you think about the timing of the Messiah's arrival at His first coming?

What are your questions?

What is so important about Daniel's 70 Weeks Prophecy?

How does this prophecy better explain the 7 years of Tribulation?

### SUGGESTED HOMEWORK

Reread Week 6 with the Bible references.

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Continue to jot down observations and questions and continue to find answers from Scripture.

Share what you've learned with at least one person.

Read Week 7's handout when you receive it.