

Life-Study of Daniel Summary – Messages 14-17

The Vision Concerning the Seventy Weeks

Dan. 9:24 – Seventy weeks are apportioned for your people and for your holy city, to close the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make propitiation for iniquity, and to bring in the righteousness of the ages, and to seal up vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.

In Daniel 9:3-23 we see the way to obtain the vision of the seventy weeks—**Daniel's desperate seeking of the Lord God in prayer and supplications with fasting**. In His prayer Daniel confessed his own sins and the sins of the kings, the chief men, and the fathers of Israel, and of all the people of Israel. He also supplicated for the holy city of Jerusalem, the holy mountain of God, and the holy people of God. Furthermore, Daniel asked the Lord to forgive them, not based upon their righteousness but **based upon God's great compassion**.

In his desperate prayer, Daniel requested that God recover the holy land, send His people back, and rebuild the holy city. But God answered him by giving him the report through the angel Gabriel of the seventy weeks.

The Contents of The Vision

The seventy weeks are the destiny apportioned by God for His people and for His holy city. The **purpose** of the seventy weeks is to **close the transgression**, to **make an end of sins**, to **make propitiation for iniquity**, to **bring in the righteousness of the ages**, to **seal up vision and prophet**, and to **anoint the holy of holies**.

The seventy weeks are divided into three parts, with each week being seven years, not seven days, in length. **First**, seven weeks of forty-nine years were apportioned **from the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem to the completion of the rebuilding**. **Second**, sixty-two weeks of four hundred thirty-four years were apportioned **from the completion of the rebuilding of Jerusalem to the cutting off of the Messiah**. The cutting off of Messiah—the crucifixion of Christ—was the **termination of the old creation with the human government** in the old creation and the **germination through the resurrection of Christ of God's new creation** with God's eternal kingdom as the divine administration in God's new creation. Finally, we have **one week of seven years**. This week will be for **Antichrist to make a firm covenant with the people of Israel**.

Between the sixty-ninth week and the last week, there is a **gap** which has already lasted for nearly two thousand years. In this gap **the church is being secretly and mysteriously built by Christ in His resurrection to be the Body of Christ and bride of Christ**.

For us to know God's economy and to know that in God's economy Christ is the centrality and universality of God's move, we need to see **the spiritual things behind the physical**. Apparently, all of the struggles are merely the activities of human governments represented by the great human image. Actually, **God was behind the physical world managing the entire situation**.

The vision in **chapter 11** covers the **details of the Persian Empire, the Grecian Empire, and the Roman Empire to its very end under Antichrist**. Daniel 11 speaks first of the type, Antiochus Epiphanes, and then of the fulfillment of that type, Antichrist. Verses 21-45 describe the kingdom and the evils of **Antiochus Epiphanes** as one of the kings of the north. Chapter 11 places a great deal of emphasis on Antiochus Epiphanes because he, **a full type of Antichrist**, did so much damage to the temple, defiling and destroying it. The armies of Antiochus Epiphanes

profaned the sanctuary, removed the daily sacrifice, and set up the abomination that desolates. Sacrifices, circumcision, and keeping the Sabbath were absolutely forbidden. He persecuted and slew the devoted Jews.

Antichrist will have no regard for anyone or anything; he will do as he pleases. He will exalt himself and magnify himself above every god, and against the God of gods he will speak extraordinary things. **Antichrist will come to his end when Christ as the stone cut out without hands comes with His bride to smash the great human image from the toes to the head.** During the church age, the age of mystery, Christ is building up the church to be His bride. Since Antichrist will not believe in God or Christ but only in himself, the appearing of Christ with His bride will be a great surprise to Antichrist and his followers. At that juncture Christ will come with His bride to bring Antichrist to his end.

The vision concerning the destiny of Israel in **chapter 12** is related to the archangel Michael's standing for Israel. Daniel 12 first speaks of things in the consummation of the age—the last three and a half years of the present age. During this time of distress and tribulation, the shattering of the power of the holy people will be completed. Many of those who are sleeping in the ground will awake to life eternal. Daniel 12 also covers things in the kingdom age. After the resurrection, the kingdom of God and of Christ will become the **eternal kingdom**, as signified by the great mountain, thus ushering in the kingdom age. **The resurrected saints will enjoy the eternal life in the kingdom.** Finally, the vision in chapter 12 includes things in eternity. Those who will be resurrected and enjoy the eternal life in the kingdom will **continue the enjoyment of the eternal life in eternity forever and ever.**

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