

Daniel

"The Prophetic Calendar – Part 1"

(Daniel 9:1-27)

A Comparison of Visions:

	<u>IMAGE – Chapter 2</u>	<u>BEASTs - Chapter 7</u>	<u>BEASTs - Chapter 8</u>	<u>KINGDOMS</u>
The Times of the Gentiles	Head of Gold	Winged Lion		Babylon
	Arms & Breast of Silver	Bear	Ram with Two Horns	Medo-Persia
	Belly & Thighs of Bronze	Winged Four-Headed Leopard	Male Goat w/One Great Horn, Four Horns & Little Horn	Greece
	Legs of Iron, Feet/Toes of Iron & Clay	Beast w/Ten Horns & Little Horn		Rome
	Stone that becomes a great mountain	Messiah & Saints given a Kingdom		Kingdom of God

The Outline:

1. Daniel's Inquisitive Research (9:1-2)
2. Daniel's Penitent Prayer (9:3-19)
3. God's Reaction to Daniel's Prayer (9:20-27)

The Setting/Overview: Chapter 9 contains one of the most significant prophecies of the Old Testament. It foretold the precise time that Messiah would be present in the world. The events and the vision of Chapter 9 came in the first year of Darius the Mede was 539 BC. This would have been no surprise to Daniel who understood from the vision of Chapter 8, received 11-12 years earlier, that the Medo-Persians would at sometime, come to power. Additionally, Daniel would have been familiar with the writings of Isaiah and Jeremiah who had both predicted that Babylon would be defeated. The events of chapter 9, likely took place a short time after the events of Chapter 5 (Belshazzar's handwriting on the wall) and yet before the Lion's Den of Chapter 6.

Some Context: God had commanded his people to give the land a "Sabbath rest" every seven years. During these years the Jews could not cultivate the ground and they had to trust that God would make food grow to meet their daily needs. However, there was no record that the Jews ever did this. In other words, they disobeyed God. Daniel, through the vision of the good and bad figs (Jeremiah 24), had been assured that the Lord would care for his people regardless of who controlled the world. Daniel then learned that the reason for the exile was the disobedience of the Jews with respect to the land Sabbaths and that it would last for seventy years (Jeremiah 25). During the time when Judah was in Babylon, the land was able to "rest" for seventy years (2 Chronicles 36:20-21). If, God was exacting 70 Sabbath years during the time of the exile, then Judah had not been keeping the Sabbath of the land for 490 years. This meant that the Jews had been disobeying God with respect to the "Sabbath rest" since the time of Samuel (1095 BC).

Daniel's Prayer: There must be a practical side to the study of prophecy. Once Daniel saw what God was doing, he began to fervently seek God and prayed a prayer of repentance. Daniel made prayer a habit in his life. For instance, he and his three friends sought God to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream (2:17-18). Additionally, it was Daniel's habit to pray three times daily even when it was illegal to do so (6:10-11). Furthermore, he sought understanding of the vision of Chapter 7 (7:15ff) and in the vision of Chapter 8 (8:15ff). Knowing that the designated conclusion of the captivity was near, Daniel feared that God might delay the conclusion of the exile if the Jews turn to him with prayers of repentance.

God's Response to Daniels Prayer: Before Daniel was done praying God sent Gabriel to him. Daniel had seen Gabriel several years previously when he had received the vision of Chapter 8 and this vision had left him confused. Daniel's confusion: "If the Babylonian captivity of the Jews was to last for seventy years, and those seventy years were near their end, then why in the previous vision had God pictured a further chastening of Israel many years into the future." Gabriel was there to end Daniel's confusion by presenting more revelation from God.

The Revelation: ²⁴"Seventy weeks 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. ²⁵Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time. ²⁶And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed. ²⁷And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

The 9 Significant Issues of Daniel 9:24-27:

1. The prophecy concerns the Jews and the city of Jerusalem.
2. The amount of time the prophecy covers is 490 years.
3. The 490 years would be necessary to accomplish six purposes:
 - Finish the transgression
 - Make an end of Sin
 - Make atonement for iniquity
 - Bring in everlasting righteousness
 - Seal up vision and prophecy
 - Anoint a most holy place
4. The start of the 490 years will be at the decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem.
5. Messiah would be present on the earth after the 69 weeks (Divided into 7 and 62 week periods).
6. After the 69 weeks, Messiah would be cut off and have nothing.
7. After the 69 weeks, Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed.
8. The 70th week did not follow immediately after the 69th week (i.e., there is a gap in time).
9. The 70th week will bring about the Antichrist.

Next Week: "The Prophetic Calendar – Part 2 (Daniel 9:24-27)"