The Seventy Weeks: God's Prophetic Clock (Part 1)

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References: Daniel 9, Daniel 9:20-27; Psalm 139:23-24; Numbers 14:34; Ezekiel 4:6; Revelation 12:14; Daniel 7:25; Daniel 12:7; Revelation 11:2; Revelation 11:3; Revelation 12:6

Good evening, everyone. Good evening to the people on the Zoomland. Amen. So it is such a privilege to preach the Word of God. So let me share my screen with you.

So the 70 weeks, God's prophetic clock, the coming of Messiah, the Prince. Daniel chapter 9, verse 20 to 27, part 1.

Introduction: The Prophetic Clock

Daniel chapter 9 brings us into one of the most remarkable prophetic passages in all the Bible. So Daniel was not merely asking God for information about the future. He was burdened about Jerusalem, Israel, sin, and the promise of God.

So he had been reading Jeremiah's prophecy and understood that the 70 years of Jerusalem's desolation were drawing to their conclusion. So Daniel prayed, he confessed, he pleaded for mercy, and while Daniel was still praying, God sent the angel Gabriel with an answer. But God's answer was greater than Daniel expected.

So Daniel was thinking about 70 years. God revealed 70 weeks. So Daniel was thinking about the restoration of Jerusalem. God revealed the coming of Messiah the Prince. So Daniel was thinking about Israel's immediate deliverance. God revealed a prophetic program reaching from the rebuilding of Jerusalem to the Messiah, His rejection and the destruction of Jerusalem, a future time of unparalleled trouble, and ultimately the fulfillment of God's purposes for Israel.

So the passage is found in Daniel 9:20–27. So the heart of this prophecy is this: seventy weeks are determined upon the people and upon thy holy city. So the Hebrew expression translated "weeks" refers to a period of seven. So in this prophetic context, the seventy weeks are understood as seventy sevens or 490 years. And the remarkable thing is that this 490 years are divided into seven: seven weeks plus sixty-two weeks plus one week, that is 7 + 62 + 1 = 70 weeks.

So, the first 69 weeks bring us to Messiah. The final 70th week concerns the prophetic consummation still awaiting fulfillment.

The Scripture Reading: Daniel 9:20–27

So, Daniel 9:20–27. All the Bible words I will be reading tonight are from the Kings of Israel. James the Virgin was also raised a virgin.

> [Daniel 9:20-27 NKJV] - 20 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, 21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering. 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. 23 At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:
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> 24 "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.
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> 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; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.
>
> 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. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.
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> 27 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."

May God bless the reading of His Word.

Let's pray.

Father, we thank You this evening. We thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ. So Father, we thank You that You give us Your Holy Spirit, You give us the Bible, and also the Holy Spirit will help us to understand the Bible. So Father, we pray that through Your Holy Spirit, You will lead us, guide us, and help us, help us to understand, cause us to obey. So Father, thank You. As we commit this Bible study into Your hands, bless us all, we pray and give thanks in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Heart of Intercession: Daniel 9:20

So, Daniel chapter 9, verse 20.

> [Daniel 9:20 NKJV] - 20 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God,

Thank you.

So notice Daniel's heart. He was praying, he was confessing, he was interceding, and he was concerned about the holy mount of God, Jerusalem. Daniel understood that Jerusalem's condition was connected with Israel's spiritual condition. This is an important message for us. When we pray about the condition of our world, our churches, our families, or our nation, we must not forget the deeper problem. Sin separates man from God.

So Daniel did not begin by blaming Babylon. He began by confessing sin. He did not begin by accusing others. He humbled himself before God. So before asking God to search our hearts.

Psalm 139:23–24 says:

> [Psalm 139:23-24 NKJV]
> 23 Search me, O God, and know my heart;
> Try me, and know my anxieties;
> 24 And see if there is any wicked way in me,
> And lead me in the way everlasting.

So Psalm 139:23 and 24 is a prayer asking God to examine our hearts, reveal any sinful ways with us, and lead us in His everlasting way. So God's prophetic revelation came to a praying man.

Swift Answer to Prayer: Daniel 9:21

Daniel 9:21:

> [Daniel 9:21 NKJV] - 21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.

What a beautiful statement! While I was praying in prayer, Daniel has not even finished praying. God was already answering. Gabriel came swiftly. The prophet had asked God about Jerusalem, and heaven sent an angel with God's prophetic answer. This reminds us that prayer is not speaking into an empty heaven. God hears. God knows. God acts according to His perfect wisdom and timing.

Skill and Understanding: Daniel 9:22–23

Daniel 9:22. Daniel chapter 9, verse 22:

> [Daniel 9:22 NKJV] - 22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.

So God wanted Daniel to understand. The prophecy is not given merely to satisfy curiosity. It is given to reveal God's purposes. God wants His people to know that history is not wandering aimlessly. God has a timetable. Kings rise, kings fall. Empires appear, empires disappear. But God's prophetic clock keeps moving. God's prophetic clock keeps moving.

Daniel 9:23:

> [Daniel 9:23 NKJV] - 23 At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

What encouraging words! "Thou art greatly beloved." Daniel was living in a pagan world, but he was precious to God. And notice again, understand the matter. The prophecy was meant to be studied. Studied. It was meant to be understood. It was meant to point us toward God's redemptive purposes. And ultimately, it points us toward Jesus Christ.

The Scope of the Seventy Weeks: Daniel 9:24

Verse 24, Daniel chapter 9, verse 24:

> [Daniel 9:24 NKJV] - 24 "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.

This is the great foundation of the prophecy. So Gabriel says, "Seventy weeks are determined." These weeks concern thy people and thy holy city. Daniel's people were the Jewish people. Daniel's city was Jerusalem. So the prophecy has a specific prophetic focus upon Israel and Jerusalem.

The six great purposes are given. God's program will ultimately:
1. Finish the transgression.
2. Make an end of sins.
3. Make reconciliation for iniquity.
4. Bring in everlasting righteousness.
5. Seal up the vision and the prophecy.
6. Anoint the Most Holy.

So notice the progression: sin will not reign forever. Iniquity will not continue forever. God's prophetic program ends with righteousness. The final goal is not destruction. The final goal is the triumph of God's righteousness and kingdom.

The Day-Year Principle and Prophetic Periods

So why weeks means years? Why? So Daniel says 70 weeks. If the time is not yet over, then the time is not yet over. If the time is not yet over, then the time is not yet over. If they were 7-day weeks, 70 multiplied by 7 equals 490 days. But that cannot fit the prophetic context. Daniel 9:25 speaks of 7 weeks and 3 score and 2 weeks. 7 plus 62 equals 69 weeks. So the prophetic period leading to Messiah therefore equals 69 multiplied by 7 equals 483 years.

This understanding is consistent with the Old Testament's use of a day-year principle in prophetic contexts. Compare each day for a year, just in Numbers 14:34 and Ezekiel 4:6.

The prophecy also uses language associated with prophetic periods as well in Scripture. Revelation gives three and a half years, that's in Revelation 12:14, Daniel 7:25, 12:7. Forty-two months, that's in Revelation 11:2. Thirteen, five, twelve, multiplied by 3.5 equals... So 1260 days, that's in Revelation chapter 11:3, 12:6. 30 multiplied by 12 multiplied by 3.5 equals 1260.

These figures correspond naturally to a 360-day prophetic year. So 30 multiplied by 12 equals 360.

Sir Robert Anderson and The Coming Prince

This is the approach emphasized by Sir Robert Anderson in his book, The Prophetic Year, in The Coming Prince. Anderson, therefore, understood that the 69 weeks as 69 multiplied by 7 by 360 equals 173,880 days.

So that number is central to his calculation. Bill MacDonald says in his Believer's Bible Commentary, essential goal in his book, The Coming Prince, Sir Robert Anderson gave detailed calculations of the number of days in the 79 weeks. Using prophetic years, allowing for leap years, errors in the calendar, they changed from BC to AD, it's sacred, and figured that the 69 weeks ended on the very day of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, five days before His death.

So Sir Robert Anderson was an investigator with Scotland Yard who turned his investigative skills to the book of Daniel. This book examines Daniel, especially the seventy weeks and the coming of the Antichrist, but also provides apologetic evidence for the genuine wiseness of the book of Daniel, examining its date and authorship.

Anderson was a detective and one of the finest in the British Empire. Born in Dublin and educated at Trinity College, he was converted to Christ at the age of 19 and almost immediately began preaching in his native city, but his professional life took him into a shadowy world of criminal investigation. So. In 1888, he was summoned to Scotland Yard to serve as chief of the Criminal Investigation Department, an office he filled with distinction until his retirement in 1896. At his retirement, he was knighted by Queen Victoria.

Sir Anderson was a man accustomed to examining evidence. He knew how to see facts from fiction, to wait testimony, how to follow a trail of clue to an inescapable conclusion. And when this detective turned his investigative skills to the book of Daniel, he made a discovery that would shake the world of Biblical scholarship.

So the result was The Coming Prince, first published in 1881 and then reversed in 1894 in chapter 10, titled "Fulfillment of the Prophecy." Anderson laid out these findings with the precision of a criminal brief. What he found was not merely a prophecy. It was a mathematical signature, the fingerprint of God upon human history.

The Starting Point: Daniel 9:25

So Daniel 9:25:

> [Daniel 9:25 NKJV] - [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; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

Here God gives Daniel a start point. Notice the words: "From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem." The prophetic clock began with a decree concerning Jerusalem. Anderson identified this decree with the decree of our Texasers in the 20th year of his reign, associated with Nehemiah's rebuilding of Jerusalem's wall and the defenses. Anderson dates the beginning of the prophetic period to the first day, Nisan, 445 BC, which he calculated as March 14.

The prophecy then says, "unto the Messiah the Prince." What an extraordinary statement! God was giving Daniel a prophetic timetable leading to Messiah the Prince. So this is exactly what we see in Nehemiah. The work was opposed. Enemies resisted. The builders worked under pressure. But God's purposes continued. When God gives a promise, opposition does not cancel it. The enemy may oppose God's people. Circumstances may be difficult, but God's prophetic clock does not stop.

Anderson's Calculations: 173,880 Days

After the first 7 weeks come 62 weeks, that equals 62 multiplied by 7 equals 434 years. Therefore, 7 weeks plus 62 weeks equals 69 weeks. 49 plus 434 equals 483 years. And according to the prophetic year calculation, 483 multiplied by 360 equals 173,880 days, the famous calculation emphasized by Anderson.

Sir Robert Anderson carefully walked through the chronology in The Coming Prince. He proposed a starting date: March 14, 445 BC. He proposed the ending date: April 6, AD 32.

His conclusion: 173,880 days, which equals 69 multiplied by 7 multiplied by 360, or 69 prophetic weeks.

Anderson's calculation can be summarized as follows:
- **Step 1:** Convert 69 weeks into years: 69 multiplied by 7 equals 483 years.
- **Step 2:** Convert prophetic years into days: So 483 multiplied by 360 equals 173,880 days. 880 days.
- **Step 3:** Calculate the historical interval: So, Anderson reckoned from March 14, 445 BC to April 6, AD 32, because there is no year zero between BC and AD. So, Anderson reckoned from March 14, 445 BC to April 6, AD 32, because there is no year zero between BC and AD. He counted 476 calendar years between the days, multiplied by 365 equals 173,740 days. He added 116 days for leap years. Then he added 24 days for the interval from March 14 to April 6, using inclusive reckoning. Thus, 173,740 plus 116 days, plus 24 equals 173,880 days. Exactly the same number as 69 multiply 7 multiply 360 equals 173,880 days.

So, Anderson explicitly discussed the absence of a year zero and the difference between the Julian calendar and the solar year in explaining his calculation. With Anderson's system, the calculation is remarkably precise. Thank you. 173,880 days from the decree to the triumphal entry.

Conclusion and Preview of Part 2

So consider what this means. Daniel wrote his prophecy over 500 years before the birth of Christ. He specified not merely the year, not merely the month, but the exact day on which the Messiah would present Himself to Israel. The mathematical precision is staggering.

Anderson's conclusion was simple: this is not coincidence. This is not the result of later editing or clever manipulation. This is a fingerprint of God upon human history. The Bible is not a collection of human wisdom. It is the Word of the living God, and His prophecies bear the unmistakable mark of divine omniscience.

So our time is gone. Thank you for coming and for talking with me. The next time I have the privilege of preaching the Word of God, I will continue this subject in the 70 weeks part 2. In part 2, we will talk about:
- Why the missing year matters?
- What about the leap years and the calendar errors?
- The 69 weeks end with Messiah the Prince.
- Five days before the cross, Messiah should be cut off, but not for Himself.
- Jerusalem would be destroyed.
- The 70th week.

- The middle point of the 70th week.
- The Great Tribulation.
- The abomination.

So to be continued.

Let's pray.

Father, we thank You this evening. We thank You for the gift of Jesus Christ. We thank You for the Bible. We thank You that the Bible is true. The Bible is the Word of God. We thank You that nobody can write a book like this except God. So thank You that You not only give us the Bible, but also give Your Holy Spirit to teach us. So Father, we pray that You will teach us in every book and cause us to obey and trust that You are only the true God, then Lord Jesus Christ will be with us. Jesus Christ is the Messiah, the Prince; He will come again. Thank You, Father. Take us home safely as we commit ourselves into Your hands, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen. Amen.

Thank you, everyone. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, Roy. Yeah, thank you, Jenna. Thank you. Thank you, Roy. Good night. Good night. Thank you. Thanks, Roy. Appreciate it. The Bible is accurate. The Bible is accurate and it will be fulfilled. Amen. Amen. Amen. Praise the Lord. Thank you.

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