

The Book of Daniel Syllabus

Chapter 9

The Times of the Gentiles Review

Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, p.159

Daniel was the only prophet who had all-inclusive insight into the times of the Gentiles as related to Israel's captivity. The Gentile Age began with the captivity of Israel (721-608 BC) and will reach its conclusion with Israel's restoration (1948 AD until the Millennium). From its beginning, the times of the Gentiles produce the great empires: Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman."

David Baron *Israel in the Plan of God*, p. 111

...The Babylonian captivity...commences "the times of the Gentiles," which only close with the end of this age, when the Kingdom shall once again be restored to Israel.

Daniel Witnesses Prophecy Come To Pass And Prays

Daniel saw prophecy come to pass when the two-armed silver empire (the Medo-Persian) toppled the golden head of Babylon. So he went to the written word of the Lord. He searched the scrolls of the prophesies of Jeremiah concerning the number of years of the Babylonian exile (Jeremiah 25:11; 29:4-10). As a young man of the seed royal in Jerusalem, Daniel would have heard Jeremiah himself. For the prophets spoke primarily in the areas of the king's palace and the Temple.

Again, the ArtScrolls translation and comments throw light upon Daniel's exact actions:

In the first year of Dairus, the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of Media, who was made king over the kingdom of the Chaldeans: ² In the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, contemplated the calculation, the number of years about which the word of H^AS^HE^M [literally: The Name; used in place of the Name of the LORD] had come to the prophet Jeremiah, to complete the seventy years from the ruins of Jerusalem. ³ And I set my face toward my Lord, God, to request prayer and supplication, with fasting, sackcloth, and ashes.

⁴ *I prayed to H^AS^HE^M, my God, and I confessed....*

Daniel did what we should do concerning prophecy coming to pass.

1. Obey the Lord's command to watch....
2. Go to the Word ...
3. Seek prayer; utterance...
4. Pray...

ArtScrolls comment to verse 3: "To request prayer and supplication".

Besides his actual prayer, he asked God to grant him prayer — i.e., to give him the wisdom and eloquence needed to pray.

Read Daniel's God-Given Prayer, 9:4-15

Note particularly that he mentions *Judah, Jerusalem, all Israel*...

This prayer has only to do prophetically with those specified.

It has no reference to the church. We take it up at verse 16:

Dan. 9:16 *O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people are become a reproach to all that are about us.*

Dan. 9:17 *Now therefore, O our God, hear the prayer of thy servant, and his supplications, and cause thy face to shine upon thy sanctuary that is desolate, for the Lord's sake.*

Dan. 9:18 *O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies.*

Dan. 9:19 *O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: for thy city and thy people are called by thy name. (KJV)*

Note: This concerns only:

Thy city Jerusalem
Thy holy mountain, (The Temple Mount)
Our sins
Thy people, who are become a reproach
Thy sanctuary, that is desolate
Our desolations,
For Thy city and Thy people, called by Thy Name

Gabriel Interrupts Daniel's Prayer

Dan. 9:20 † *And whiles I was speaking, and 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;*

Dan. 9:21 *Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.*

Dan. 9:22 *And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding.*

Dan. 9:23 *At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision. (KJV)*

Again we note the prayer is for:

My people Israel
The holy mountain of my God.

Seventy Weeks of Years

Dan. 9:24 *Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

Dan. 9:25 *Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. (KJV)*

Seventy weeks of years:

Years on God's calendar are in 7-year cycles (Leviticus 25).

Daniel would have understood this to be seventy weeks of seven-year shmittah cycles.

See Appendix: Shmittah Cycles

The following note I've written in my Bible is from a source I failed to identify:

"The 70 weeks measure the time from 'the incomplete restoration' from the Babylonish captivity to the time of 'the complete one' when Israel will be returned to full favor of the Lord."

Brim note: Seventy weeks of years totals 490 years. Some Jewish sources say that the First Temple was destroyed in 423 BCE. This differs with the Western reckoning date of 590 BC. By either calculation it has been more than 2400 years since Daniel Chapter 9. How could this be?

The answer is simple. I'm a basketball fan. A professional NBA game is played in four 12-minute quarters. That's 48 minutes playing time. But with time outs, games take about two hours and thirty minutes.

The seventy weeks of years of God's dealings with Israel are interrupted at given points. These are the time-outs.

The ArtScrolls translation helps us understand what is to be completed in those seventy weeks of years:

²⁴ *Seventy weeks have been decreed upon your people and your holy city to terminate transgression, to end sin, to wipe away iniquity, to bring everlasting righteousness, to seal vision and prophet, and to anoint the Holy of Holies.* (ArtScrolls)

1. To finish transgression (Only that of Israel.)
2. To end sin
3. To make reconciliation for iniquity (Zechariah 12:9-13:1; Isaiah 66:8,)
4. To bring in everlasting righteousness – Millennial Kingdom (Isaiah 26:1, 2, 7, 8; Jeremiah 31:33, 34; Ezekiel 37:21-28.)
5. To seal up vision and prophecy. (To complete the fulfillment.)
6. To anoint the Holy of Holies in the Millennial Temple. (Ezekiel 40-47.)

God's Division Points

Dan. 9:26 *And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.*

Dan. 9:27 *And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.* (KJV)

Verse 26 "after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off."

Of course, after 69 weeks of years, the Messiah, was "cut off"

Is. 53:8 By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who *among them* considered that **he was cut off** out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people to whom the stroke *was due*? (ASV)

When Messiah is cut off, 69 of the 70 seven-year cycles of years have passed.
69 of the 70 shmittah cycles have passed.
One shmittah cycle is left.
One 7-year cycle of years is left.

That 7-year cycle, known as Daniel's 70th week, is the period of God's dealings with Israel in the Book of Revelation.

Verse 26: "the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary..."

"The prince that shall come" is the antichrist.

"The people of the prince that shall come shall destroy..."

The Romans

Titus destroyed the city and the Temple in 70 AD.

Therefore, the prince that shall come, the antichrist, is a Roman prince.
He will operate off the platform of the Roman Empire Revived.
(Revelation 17:11-13, 17.)

Dan. 9:27 *And he shall make a firm covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease; and upon the wing of abominations shall come one that maketh desolate; and even unto the full end, and that determined, shall wrath be poured out upon the desolate.* (KJV)

This is the week of 7 years, that is Daniel's 70th week.
It is the week of the "time of Jacob's trouble."

The antichrist will appear as a man with the answers.
However, in the midst of the week, his true colors show.
He comes to Jerusalem and from the Holy Place announces that he is god.

The Holy Spirit through Paul said of these times:

2Th. 2:3 ¶ Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come*, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

2Th. 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Jesus said of this time:

Matt. 24:15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Matt. 24:16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:...

Matt. 24:18 Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes....

Matt. 24:21 For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

Matt. 24:22 And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened....

Matt. 24:27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matt. 24:28 For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.

Matt. 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Matt. 24:30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

Matt. 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect [the Jewish remnant] from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

The ArtScrolls ends the 9th Chapter with this phrase: *"...until extermination as decreed will pour down upon the abomination"*

Time Space for the Church Age

Brim Note: Though the church is a hidden mystery in the Old Testament. And though the church is not a part of the answer to Daniel's prayer, a time space is left for the church in the "time out" between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel's Seventy Weeks of Years.

Some have called this space of now about 2000 years, a parenthesis.

A parenthesis which covers the church age upon the earth.

A parenthesis which includes the day of salvation by grace (Acts 20:24).

A parenthesis which begins with the birth of the church and ends with her catching up.