

# **“Understand the Matter”**

## **Daniel 9:20-27**

Although we included verses 20-21 in the past study of Daniel 9, we will look at them in more detail here as they are more connected with this text than the previous, which was explained in our study of those previous verses.

The text before us is one of the most controversial in its interpretation as any in the Bible. There seems to be almost as many varied views on this as there are people that write concerning it. The problem seems to stem from one’s preconceived viewpoint of prophecy – their prophetic worldview, if you would. That is a truth that can be said of any passage of Scripture, for that matter, and it truly is a primary factor in how we understand the Bible. Since I, and conservative, fundamental/orthodox, evangelicals like me, interpret the Bible in its literal, historically accurate, contextually relevant manner, the same approach will be taken here. We will look at this text as we would any other, and interpret it in light of its historical context, its relevant scriptural context, and how it fits with the rest of prophetic teachings in the Bible.

All that said, this will by no means be an exhaustive study where we look at all opposing views and dissect every minutia of detail. Our intent in the study of Daniel has been, and will continue to be, how this relates to us today, and what we can do with it to better our walk with Christ, and advance the cause of Christ in the world around us.

Five times in this text the word for “understand” (“understanding,” “informed,” “consider”) is used.

This doesn't necessarily give us a breakdown or outline of the verses, but it does show how important it was for Daniel (and us) to understand what was happening and what was being said.

There is an important point to make here: God wrote the Bible with the intention of it being understood. He didn't intend for it to be complicated or difficult, but because we are still sinful man in our natural flesh, some of it will be difficult to understand.

There are two Hebrew words translated "understand" in this text. One (vs. 25) is uncommonly translated "understand" – שָׁכַל – while the other one (used four times in various ways) is the more common word for "understand" – בִּין. We will look at these words in their context as we study this passage but the point to be made here in the introduction is that God intended for Daniel to have as clear an understanding based upon the information he had, or could comprehend, as was possible for him at the time. Considering we have "greater light" today, with a finished Scripture, the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer, and millennia of history to sift through, it is even more befitting for the church today to "understand" what is meant in this text and how it applies to our lives and ministry.

## **I. THE DETAILS PRECEDING THE PROPHECY – VS. 20-22 – THE OCCASION**

***A. Verse 20-21 point back to the beginning of the prayer Daniel was praying when Gabriel appeared to him with the answer. Some believe there was more to this prayer than what is recorded here (Dr. Walvoord for one) because of the mention of "the evening oblation" in***

**verse 21. I don't think that in and of itself necessitates this prayer being longer than what is recorded. What the context does show is that Daniel was in a state of meditation that ended in the content of this prayer.**

1. "Whiles I was speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication..." – we looked at most of these points in the previous text in the content of the actual prayer.
  - a) One thing to note is the word "speaking" (used twice in these two verses). The word used here is one that means to say something out loud. Daniel's prayer, as has been mentioned before, was prayed out loud, and for all that wanted to hear.
  - b) This gives us reason to pray in public and to voice our prayers out loud, even in our private devotional times. This isn't a proof text for that, nor is to be true in every case, for Hannah (1 Samuel 1) prayed without saying anything out loud and God heard her prayers. But here, in the situation Daniel was in, praying as a representative for others, praying in an audible voice was necessary.
  - c) Another comment on this portion – "presenting my supplication" is what prayer is.
2. "Before the LORD my God" – again, points to whom it is we are to pray.
  - a) The word for "before" (לפני) comes from

two words, or parts of speech:

(1) *The inseparable preposition לְ and the noun for "face" – פָּנֵה*

(2) *The definition of the preposition is "to, into, for"*

b) Literally, the word means "to the face." In relation to Daniel's prayer, it was done "to the face" of the LORD his God – points to the direction of our prayer, the Person of whose attention one is seeking.

3. "For the holy mountain of my God" – another way of saying Jerusalem – it was the "holy mountain" of which Daniel was referring. As was pointed out earlier in our study of Daniel, he never forgot who he was, where he came from, and who his God was. Daniel referred to it as the "holy mountain" in verse 16 of chapter nine.

#### Daniel 9:16

<sup>16</sup> 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.

#### Zechariah 8:3

<sup>3</sup> Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

4. "Even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen

in the vision at the beginning”

a) “The man Gabriel”

(1) “The man” – וְהָאִישׁ – *this is not a generic term as some see it but is specifically male in gender.*

(2) “Gabriel” – from two Hebrew words: גַּבְרִיֵּל, meaning valiant man or warrior, mighty man; and the general word for God – אֱלֹהִים.

(3) So, the mention of who it was that brought Daniel the prophecy is to emphasize the importance of the message as well as the Person from which it came and by whom it was delivered – the man, the mighty man of God.

b) “In the vision at the beginning”

(1) *This isn’t speaking about the current time or event. Once the prayer is over it is a prophecy that Gabriel gave to Daniel in a real-time, live, in-person, conversation in a woke state.*

(2) *The word for “beginning” is the issue that needs resolved. Since it isn’t speaking of this event then it must be speaking of something else – the “beginning” of what is the question. The only other time Gabriel is mentioned by name in Daniel (in fact, in the entire Old Testament) is in Dan. 8:16 in relation to the ram and rough goat vision that he received some fifteen years prior to this prayer and prophecy.*

## Daniel 8:15-18

**15** And it came to pass, when I, even I Daniel, had seen the vision, and sought for the meaning, then, behold, there stood before me as the appearance of a man.

**16** And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.

**17** So he came near where I stood: and when he came, I was afraid, and fell upon my face: but he said unto me, Understand, O son of man: for at the time of the end shall be the vision.

**18** Now as he was speaking with me, I was in a deep sleep on my face toward the ground: but he touched me, and set me upright.

(3) *The Hebrew word (בְּתַחֲלָה - תְּחִלָּה), in this context, as the Bishop's Bible and the Geneva Bible have it, is to be understood as an event that happened before, not specifically at the beginning of an event as we would understand it today. The same word is used in verse 23 but there it has a time qualifier that specifies what exactly is referenced.*

(Bishops) Yea, while I was yet speaking in my prayer, the man Gabriel (whom I had seen afore in the vision) came fleeing, & touched me about the time of the evening oblation:

(Geneva) Yea, while I was speaking in prayer, even the man

Gabriel, whom I had seen before in the vision, came flying, and touched mee about the time of the evening oblation.

5. "Being caused to fly swiftly" – this is one of the more peculiar phrases in this text and is one of the places in the Bible from which we get the idea that angels have wings and fly (angels other than the cherubim/seraphim since they are defined as having wings).
  - a) The verb translated here for "being caused to fly" is in the participle form of נָצַחַ, which means to be weary or faint from exhaustion or exertion; and the noun that follows is the same root word as used for the verb and means the same – to be weary, or utterly weary.
  - b) The literal translation of this would be "to be weary in weariness." "The expression is an anthropomorphism of sorts to indicate the dramatic swiftness with which Gabriel was sent. His coming is full of significance" (The Preacher's Commentary). "[H]aving an order from the Lord, and being strengthened by him to make quick dispatch to Daniel, which is signified by flying swiftly; and for which reason angels are represented as having wings, to denote their celerity and quick dispatch of business: or "flying with weariness" (m), as some render it; he made such haste as to be weary with it; as he appeared in the form of a man, he looked like one out of breath, and panting for it, occasioned by his swift flight; and which expresses the haste he made, according to his orders,

and his eagerness to bring to Daniel the welcome tidings of the coming of the Messiah, and the time of it, which angels desired to look into..." (John Gill)

- c) Some translations have this phrase pointing to Daniel rather than Gabriel, and put it this way:

(BBE)...whom I had seen in the vision at first when my weariness was great...

(MKJV)...touched me in my severe exhaustion...

(CSB)...reached me in my extreme weariness...

(NASB)...came to me in my extreme weariness...

- d) The placement in the sentence structure would seem to point to Gabriel being the one that is spoken of and not Daniel. The Greek translation of the Old Testament (the Septuagint) has the word as πέτομαι – a word meaning to fly – which would indicate that that's the application of the word in Hebrew. There is a Hebrew word specifically for "fly" but the issue in the verse under review is the swiftness (and apparent weariness it would show) by which Gabriel came, not just that he "flew."

## 6. "Touched me about the time of the evening oblation"

- a) The word for "touched" (participle form of the verb נָגַע) has the primary meaning as it is translated in the KJV as "to touch," which is how it is meant to be viewed in this

context. Daniel was praying, in a state of meditation, when Gabriel came to him and he simply touched him to get his attention.

- b) "Evening oblation" - "[T]he ninth hour, three o'clock (compare 1Ki\_18:36). As formerly, when the temple stood, this hour was devoted to sacrifices, so now to prayer. Daniel, during the whole captivity to the very last, with pious patriotism never forgot God's temple-worship, but speaks of its rites long abolished, as if still in use." (J-F-B)

### 1 Kings 18:36

<sup>36</sup> And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

## ***B. Verse 22 continues with the aspect of Gabriel's arrival and what followed, after he got Daniel's attention.***

1. "And he informed me"
  - a) This is the first use of the Hebrew word translated in other portions of this text as the word "understand."
  - b) This clause, and the next, are more of a generalization of what was about to be revealed. Gabriel is declaring to Daniel that he was there to help him understand how the fall of Jerusalem, and its restoration seventy years later, fit into what Daniel was about to receive in the prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. He was there to help him

understand, or, more specifically, to make him understand.

2. "And talked with me"

- a) The word used – דִּבֶּר, וַיְדַבֵּר – in its simplest form means to speak, and that's how it is used here.
- b) Again, a generalized statement that Daniel would receive what Gabriel was about to say directly from his mouth to Daniel's ears.

3. "I am now come forth" – the word order shows, again, the urgency and importance of "the matter."

4. "To give thee skill and understanding"

- a) "To give thee skill" - לְהַשְׁכִּילֶךָ (hifil infinitive construct with lammed preposition [to, into, for] and the 2ms [you] ending) of שָׁכַל – in this context it means "to cause to consider, give insight, teach" (B-D-B).
- b) "And understanding" – literally, "to understand"

(1) *The definite article הַ is not present in the word for "understand" – it was translated this way because of the implication for it in the text. B-D-B has it as "to instruct thee in knowledge."*

(2) *The word for "understand" is the noun בִּינָה – a word meaning understanding, comprehension, discernment, etc. It is a common word in the book of Proverbs and is seen there as the ability to put*

*into practice the wisdom and knowledge that one has.*

*(3) The most literal way of seeing this is helpful – “to make thee skillful of understanding” – to be able to apply what he was about to hear in this prophecy.*

## **II. THE DETAILS OF THE BASIC PRINCIPLES OF THE PROPHECY – VS. 23-24 – THE OVERVIEW**

**A. The first part of verse 23 points back to the beginning of the prayer of Daniel as recorded in this chapter and is the Lord’s answer by way of the prophecy (“vision”) that Gabriel brought.**

1. “The commandment came forth”

- a) The word for “commandment” here – דְּבָרָה – is a very common word, used some 1446 times in the Old Testament and only 20 times is it translated “commandment(s).” The vast majority of the times it is used it is simply speaking of words, speech, matter, things, etc. When Gabriel references a “commandment” it was the word from the Lord that he was bringing, the answer to the prayer. He considered it a “command” because it seems he associated anything from the Lord as possessing the attribute of a command (as should we, for that matter). Even the Ten Commandments were literally considered the “ten words” of the Lord, showing this principle.
- b) “Came forth” – “went out” (the Hebrew word order is, “At the beginning of your supplications went out the command”) – at

the beginning of this prayer of Daniel's Gabriel was dispatched to bring him both the answer to the prayer of seeing the fulfillment of the promise of restoration to the land of Israel as well as to bring the "word," the prophecy from the Lord about what was yet to come.

"This evidently means, in heaven; and the idea is, that as soon as he began to pray a command was issued from God to Gabriel that he should visit Daniel, and convey to him the important message respecting future events. It is fair to conclude that he had at once left heaven in obedience to the order, and on this high embassy, and that he had passed over the amazing distance between heaven and earth in the short time during which Daniel was engaged in prayer. If so, and if heaven - the peculiar seat of God, the dwelling-place of angels and of the just - is beyond the region of the fixed stars, some central place in this vast universe, then this may give us some idea of the amazing rapidity with which celestial beings may move. It is calculated that there are stars so remote from our earth, that their light would not travel down to us for many thousand years. If so, how much more rapid may be the movements of celestial beings than even light..." (Albert Barnes - written circa 1850)

2. "And I am come to shew thee" - "to shew" (לְהַגִּיד - דָּגַג, hiphil infinitive) is a verb meaning to tell, to make known, to explain. "The root idea of the word and the causative form in which it is used is to declare something" (Zodhiates). Gabriel was sent to declare the prophecy, the vision he received from the Lord to convey

to Daniel. The translation in the KJV is a good one in that it demonstrates not just that Gabriel came to simply tell Daniel the prophecy, but he also came to help him understand it in relation to the prayer he was praying.

***B. The middle part of the verse shows a wonderful truth both about Daniel and about those that follow the Lord with all their heart – “for thou art greatly beloved.”***

1. One thing to note about this phrase is this is the reason given by Gabriel for him being sent to reveal the answer and the prophecy to Daniel – “for” – primary meaning of this demonstrative particle in the Hebrew is “because.”
2. The Hebrew word used here is in an adjective form – **תִּיִּמְנֶנּוּ** – of a root stem that is used as a verb, a noun, or as an adjective. The root stem – **תִּמְנַן** – at its basic meaning has the definition of taking pleasure in, to desire, as well as several that are used in a negative sense – to lust, to covet, etc.

“Margin, as in Hebrew, ‘a man of desires.’ That is, he was one whose happiness was greatly desired by God; or, a man of God’s delight; that is, as in our version, greatly beloved. It was on this account that his prayer was heard, and that God sent to him this important message respecting what was to come.” (Barnes)

3. This is said of Daniel two more times in chapter 10, indicating what the Lord felt for him, and showing what kind of relationship He wants to have with His children, even today.

Daniel 10:11

<sup>11</sup> And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling.

Daniel 10:19

<sup>19</sup> And said, O man greatly beloved, fear not: peace be unto thee, be strong, yea, be strong. And when he had spoken unto me, I was strengthened, and said, Let my lord speak; for thou hast strengthened me.

***C. The final portion of verse 23 is a combination conditional clause to show that, because Daniel was "greatly beloved" by the Lord, and because he had prayed for a specific answer, Gabriel was sent to reveal the answer and expound on that answer in the prophecy of "The Seventy Weeks." There are two parts to this portion: the first clause deals with the answer to the prayer and the second one deals with the prophecy that Gabriel brought for Daniel.***

1. "Therefore understand the matter"
  - a) "Understand" - same Hebrew word translated "informed" in verse 22, and the same as the word "consider" in the next clause.

- b) The Hebrew word for “the matter” is the same as the word for “commandment” earlier in the verse, so the connection is made in this clause to what preceded – the reason for Gabriel’s coming to Daniel was, first, to answer the prayer as to when the events would unfold and, as found in verses 16-18, to restore the people of Israel to the land. That’s the “matter” at hand.

## 2. “And consider the vision”

- a) The second part deals with the prophecy of the Seventy Weeks, as it is called – how the events that began with the restoration of the Israel to the land and will be concluded in a yet-future time will unfold.
- b) “And consider” – another way of saying Daniel is meant to understand what is being said.
- c) “The vision”

*(1) The word for “vision” here – בְּמַרְאֵה from the root מַרְאָה – is not the same as the word for “vision” in the next verse – הִזּוֹן.*

*(2) This word comes from a root stem רָאָה which is a verb meaning simply to see. The word as a noun means sight, an appearance, a physical vision (visible appearance) of something or someone.*

*(3) In this case, the vision, as was pointed out previously, was not the same type of vision that Daniel had received while he was in a trance, or while he was asleep. This is one that he was fully*

*aware of, fully awake, and something that Gabriel was there to make known to him, to make him see (both literally and figuratively), and to understand.*

*(4) As we will see in our study of verse 24, the word for "vision" there - רְאוּן - is the more common one for a dream or vision.*

Conclusion to this point: What is said about Daniel's prayer life and his urgency in prayer, and the urgency in the Lord's response to his prayer is still true for us today. It's the same God that Daniel had that we had. The Lord may not send an angel to talk to us directly, but we have something even better – a finished Scripture and the Holy Spirit (God Himself) indwelling us, guiding us in our life. The problem is we don't listen. Daniel's walk with the Lord, and the Lord's response to him demonstrates for us today how much the Lord wants to fellowship with us and talk with us – why don't we let Him?

Are we demonstrating in our life the attributes that Daniel did that attracted, as it were, the desire of God to consider Him "greatly beloved"? God loved the world enough to give His only begotten Son, so all of mankind can see the love of God, but it's only when we draw close to Him that we will truly comprehend that love on a personal level. That's what Daniel had – that kind of relationship.

***D. Verse 24 gives a series of events that Gabriel gives as to the purpose of the prophecy of the Seventy Weeks. Before we look at that purpose, we must first determine the interpretation of the overview itself.***

1. "Seventy weeks"

- a) Before anyone can determine what is meant by this prophecy as a whole, the most important part to consider is what is meant by "seventy weeks."
- b) Adam Clarke: This is a most important prophecy, and has given rise to a variety of opinions relative to the proper mode of explanation; but the chief difficulty, if not the only one, is to find out the time from which these seventy weeks should be dated. What is here said by the angel is not a direct answer to Daniel's prayer. He prays to know when the seventy weeks of the captivity are to end. Gabriel shows him that there are seventy weeks determined relative to a redemption from another sort of captivity, which shall commence with the going forth of the edict to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, and shall terminate with the death of Messiah the Prince, and the total abolition of the Jewish sacrifices. In

the four following verses he enters into the particulars of this most important determination, and leaves them with Daniel for his comfort, who has left them to the Church of God for the confirmation of its faith, and a testimony to the truth of Divine revelation. They contain the fullest confirmation of Christianity, and a complete refutation of the Jewish cavils and blasphemies on this subject.

- c) Some simply consider it seventy periods of time, without determining a length. This is the view of Dr. Sinclair Ferguson: "These are to be thought of as two periods, one of seven sevens and another of sixty-two sevens (v. 25) ...The period of sixty-two sevens will be followed by the last week when 'Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself' (vs. 26)"

That is not the view that pre-tribulation rapturists hold (of which I am one). We hold to an understanding of this prophecy, as well as those related to the end-time events (such as Matthew 24 and 25, and parts of the book of Revelation), to be pointing to a specific period of time in their conclusion. From this interpretive method, and from this biblical worldview, the "seventy weeks" are to be understood as "weeks of years." One of the foremost scholars from the pre-millennial, pre-tribulation rapture viewpoint, and one of the leading biblical scholars on all things prophetic is Dr. John Walvoord, former president of Dallas Theological Seminary from 1952-1986, in his work on the book of Daniel says this:

In the Christological interpretation of Daniel 9:24-27, it is generally assumed

that the time units indicated are years. The English word "weeks" is misleading as the Hebrew is actually the plural of the word for seven [שָׁבָעִים], without specifying whether it is days, months, or years [literally, the two words are "seventy sevens" - שָׁבָעִים שָׁבָעִים]. The only system of interpretation, however, that gives any literal meaning to this prophecy is to regard the time units as prophetic years of 360 days each according to the Jewish custom of having years of 360 days with an occasional extra month inserted to correct the calendar as needed. The seventy times seven is, therefore, 490 years with the beginning at the time of "the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem" found in verse 25 and the culmination 490 years later in verse 27. Before detailing the events to be found in the first 483 years (sixty-nine times seven), the events between the sixty-ninth seven and the seventieth seven, and the final seven years, Daniel gives the overall picture in verse 24. Careful attention must be given to the precise character of this important foundational prophecy.

- d) "Week," while generally a week of days (Dan. 10:2), was occasionally week of years, as Gen. 29:27, "fulfil the week of this," i.e. the seven years of service. Among the later Jews this became a recognized mode of reckoning, as in the Book of Jubilees, each jubilee in divided into successive weeks. From what follows it is necessary that the weeks here are sevens of years. (Pulpit Commentary)

[Daniel 10:2](#)

<sup>2</sup> In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks.

Genesis 29:27

<sup>27</sup> Fulfil her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years.

- e) Seventy sevens: i.e. of years. Not on any "yearday" theory. If "days" had been intended, it would be so expressed, as in Dan. 10:3 (compare Lev. 25:8). Moreover, "years" had been the subject of Daniel's prayer (Dan. 9:2). The last "seven" is "one", and it is divided in half in Dan. 9:27, and the half is three and a half years (Dan. 7:25; Compare Dan. 8:11-14; Dan. 11:33). In Rev\_11:2 this half is expressed by "forty-two months"; and in the next verse as "1,260 days". The whole period is therefore 490 years. (Bullinger)

## 2. "Are determined"

- a) The verb for this (דָּרְשׁוּ) only appears here in the Old Testament. Because of that infrequency of use, there is no other text to help in understanding the word. It is translated in the KJV and NKJV as "are determined," in most other good translations it is translated as "are decreed." There is a difference in English definitions between "determined" and "decreed."

(1) "Determined" is defined in Webster's 1828 Dictionary as "ended; concluded; decided; limited; fixed; settled; resolved; directed."

(2) "Decreed" is defined as "determined

*judicially; resolved; appointed;  
established in purpose.*

- b) The Hebrew word used here has a meaning in Chaldee (the language spoken by the Chaldeans in Babylon – similar to Aramaic, in which the first seven chapters of Daniel was written) of “to cut off, cut up into pieces.” “[C]ut off: i.e. divided off from all other years. The verb is in the singular to indicate the unity of the whole period, however it may be divided up (Bullinger).
- c) In rabbinic Hebrew the root  $\text{h}tk$  basically means “cut,” hence the translation “decreed” in most versions. (TWOT)
- d) Literally, “cut out,” namely, from the whole course of time, for God to deal in a particular manner with Jerusalem (J-F-B).
- e) All of that said, Gabriel has come to give this prophecy to Daniel to conclude, as it were, the Lord’s dealings with His people.

### 3. “Upon thy people and upon thy holy city”

- a) Let me say at this point that this prophecy is clearly stated as dealing with Daniel’s people – Israel – and, even though we can see the “signs of the times,” so to speak, all around us, the signs (or decrees) here are for Israel in particular – they don’t involve Gentiles nor the Church, as it were. “Therefore, none of these things have yet been fulfilled with respect to the nation of Israel, Daniel’s people and city. The six named events will be fulfilled during or at the end of the Seventieth Week” (UCRT Cross Reference).

Although this may not deal with the church,

in a general sense (the one right interpretation principle), it does have some relation in that there is an application to be made in these six things for the hope we have in Christ – something seen in the verses to come in our study of Daniel nine.

b) "Upon thy people"

*(1) Second person personal pronoun (thy, your) is used by Gabriel because they're not his people. The Lord could have said they were His, and Daniel can say they are his, but Gabriel could not.*

*(2) This prophecy is, again, clearly stated as dealing with, in a primary sense, Israel only.*

c) "And upon thy holy city"

*(1) The pronoun's use here is not just restating from its use in the previous phrase, it is also showing the connection that Daniel would have still had with the city of Jerusalem itself.*

*(2) Not only is that a point to be made, but the fact that Gabriel doesn't refer to the people and the city as the Lord's, as does Daniel earlier in his prayer.*

**Daniel 9:16**

**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.

*Daniel had in his prayer often spoken of Israel as "Thy people, Thy holy city"; but Gabriel, in reply, speaks of them as Daniel's ("thy ... thy") people and city, God thus intimating that until the "everlasting righteousness" should be brought in by Messiah, He could not fully own them as His [Tregelles] (compare Ex. 32:7). Rather, as God is wishing to console Daniel and the godly Jews, "the people whom thou art so anxiously praying for"; such weight does God give to the intercessions of the righteous (James 5:16-18). (J-F-B)*

### Exodus 32:7

**7** And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves:

### James 5:16-18

**16** Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

**17** Elias [Elijah] was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

**18** And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

Conclusion to this point: I understand that this has been some technical information under review in this

message but it's important we understand it. Remember, that issue of "understanding" is the basis for this entire text – Daniel was meant to understand it, and so are we today. The difference is Daniel was given the prophecy in his language and culture and some of the details didn't need explained as they do today – but some of it did, and, as we will find later in our study, Daniel didn't understand it all because part of the interpretation of some the prophecies were intentionally hidden from him.

If nothing else is gained from this portion of the text, understand that God has a precise plan for His people (both Old Testament Israel and the New Testament Church) and that plan will, ultimately and completely, come to pass.

The next portion of verse 24 lists six things that will result from the finishing of the "seventy weeks" (or, literally, seventy sevens – seen in this context as seventy weeks of years – 490 years). Although the work to accomplish these things began with the redemptive work of Christ on the cross, it will not be finally completed until He returns to establish His kingdom on earth at the close of the Tribulation Period.

These six infinitive clauses are to be seen as two sets of three (some scholars say that the Hebrew actually has them separated as such). "This appears evident from the arrangement of the six statements; i.e., that the first three statements treat of the taking away of sin, and thus of the negative side of the deliverance; the three last treat of the bringing in of everlasting righteousness with its consequences, and thus

of the positive deliverance, and in such a manner that in both classes the three members stand in reciprocal relation to each other: the fourth statement corresponds to the first, the fifth to the second, the sixth to the third - the second and the fifth present even the same verb חתם."

Keep in mind that this prophecy was for Israel, Daniel's people, and that was what he was focused on. But, as is the case with much of the prophecy of the Old Testament, there are stages to its fulfillment and even though Daniel would have been mystified by some of what was given, we have a finished Scripture and we can see more of what was meant than Daniel.

#### 4. "To finish the transgression"

- a) The Hebrew word translated "to finish" here - כָּלַף - "means to hold back, to hold in, to arrest, to hold in prison, to shut in or shut up; hence כְּלִיף - a prison, jail. To arrest the wickedness or shut it up does not mean to pardon it, but to hem it in, to hinder it so that it can no longer spread about (Hofm.) - K&D.

The word is in the Piel stem, which has the primary purpose of intensifying the idea of the word.

- b) "To finish" is not so much to complete, as we think of it, but to cause an end to come to it by restraining its power and hold.
- c) "The transgression" - פְּשָׁע (transgression, rebellion, crime) - the verb form of this noun means to revolt, rebel against. The

use of the word for “finish” being to hold in prison is connected with this word to emphasize the meaning – the prophecy given here was for a time (begun with the word of Christ on the cross) when both the transgression and the transgressor would be “finished” – confined to a prison, no longer able to work their sinfulness.

### Revelation 20:1-3

<sup>1</sup> And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

<sup>2</sup> And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

<sup>3</sup> And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

- d) Daniel would not have had a complete understanding of this but he would have understood the prophecy to mean that there would be a time when the influence of the transgressor (the sinner) would no longer be seen in the world, neither by his people, Israel, or by the populace in general. He was looking for the time when Israel would dwell in peace and that time, ultimately, will come in the Millennial reign of Christ. When Christ ascended back to heaven (Acts 2), and the church began, as we know it today, there has been a restraining force in place in the work of the Holy Spirit and the influence of the church on society, so the beginning of this prophecy's fulfillment happened then, but the final fulfillment will not come until the

man of sin (the Antichrist), as well as the dragon, Satan himself, is bound (restrained) and imprisoned in hell for good. Sin doesn't cease – it continues in hell for eternity – but it is contained and removed out of the believer's life forever.

## 2 Thessalonians 2:7-10

<sup>7</sup> For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.

<sup>8</sup> And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

<sup>9</sup> Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

<sup>10</sup> And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

5. "To make an end of sins" – or, as some have it, in its literal sense, to seal up sins (some have it, to put an end to sin).

a) "To make an end" – וּלְהַתֵּם, וְלִהְיוֹתָם – used 27 times in the Old Testament and in all but two of those it is translated by the principle of to seal up (the noun form of the word means to seal as with a signet ring).

The idea here is, similar to the first clause, that sin will not be annihilated or destroyed from existence but would rather be sealed up somewhere with an impregnable seal that cannot be broken. It will come to an end with regenerated mankind – and that is the point of the prophecy.

- b) "Of sins" – (הַטָּאוֹת) (the text the Jewish scribes used has this as plural but when they copied it the Masorites inserted in the marginal notes the singular form, intending for that to be read (Qere) rather than what was written (Kethiv)) – in the first clause, it was the worker of the sins that was in view more than the sin itself; in this one it is the sins more than the sinner. This word for "sin" is one that means to miss something, or to fail at carrying out one's duty. This is the principle behind the Greek word translated "sin" in the New Testament (ἁμαρτάνω).

### Romans 3:23

<sup>23</sup> For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

The work of Christ on the cross, as our Redeemer is the picture to be seen by this point. He came to bring an end of the bondage to sin under which mankind lived, and to provide victory for that sin. "[S]o that they shall be no more, but put away and abolished by the sacrifice and satisfaction of Christ for them, as to guilt and punishment; so that those, for whose sins satisfaction is made, no charge can be brought against them, nor the curse of the law reach them, nor any sentence of it be executed, or any punishment inflicted on them; but are entirely and completely saved from all their sins, and the sad effects of them." (John Gill)

In the final fulfillment of this, when Christ establishes His kingdom, sin no longer reigns in mortal man's body. Mankind is still born in sin but sin will not be tolerated and once the devil is loosed that one last time and then forever cast into the lake of

fire, and after the Great White Throne judgment and the lost are condemned to the same fate, sin is never to be known by any of creation outside of hell.

### Revelation 20:7-10

<sup>7</sup> And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

<sup>8</sup> And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

<sup>9</sup> And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

<sup>10</sup> And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

## 6. "To make reconciliation for iniquity"

- a) The Hebrew word for "reconciliation" – וְלִכְפֹּר, כָּפַר – means, in its basic form, to cover. This is precisely what the high priest did on The Day of Atonement, when he entered the Holy of Holies to sprinkle the blood on The Mercy Seat – he made atonement to cover the sins of the people for another year. This was done, in type, until the finished work of the Redeemer was completed.

"[T]o pardon, to blot out by means of a sin-offering, i.e., to forgive" (K&D).

b) A verb meaning to cover, to forgive, to expiate, to reconcile. This word is of supreme theological importance in the Old Testament as it is central to an Old Testament understanding of the remission of sin. At its most basic level, the word conveys the notion of covering but not in the sense of merely concealing. Rather, it suggests the imposing of something to change its appearance or nature. It is therefore employed to signify the cancellation or "writing over" of a contract (Isa. 28:18); the appeasing of anger (Gen. 32:20 [21]; Prov. 16:14); and the overlaying of wood with pitch so as to make it waterproof (Gen. 6:14). The word also communicates God's covering of sin. Persons made reconciliation with God for their sins by imposing something that would appease the offended party (in this case the Lord) and cover the sinners with righteousness (Exo. 32:30; Eze. 45:17; cf. Dan. 9:24). In the Old Testament, the blood of sacrifices was most notably imposed (Exo\_30:10). By this imposition, sin was purged (Psa\_79:9; Isa\_6:7) and forgiven (Psa\_78:38). The offenses were removed, leaving the sinners clothed in righteousness (cf. Zec\_3:3-4). Of course, the imposition of the blood of bulls and of goats could never fully cover our sin (see Heb\_10:4), but with the coming of Christ and the imposition of His shed blood, a perfect atonement was made (Rom\_5:9-11). (Zodhiates)

### Exodus 32:30

<sup>30</sup> And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin.

### Psalm 79:9

<sup>9</sup> Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.

### Isaiah 6:7

<sup>7</sup> And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.

### Psalm 78:38

<sup>38</sup> But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

### Zechariah 3:3-4

<sup>3</sup> Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

<sup>4</sup> And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

### Hebrews 10:4

<sup>4</sup> For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

### Romans 5:9-11

<sup>9</sup> Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

<sup>10</sup> For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

<sup>11</sup> And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the atonement.

- c) "For iniquity" – עֲוֹן – perversity, moral evil

This word indicates sin that is particularly evil, since it strongly conveys the idea of twisting or perverting deliberately. The noun carries along with it the idea of guilt from conscious wrongdoing (Gen\_44:16; Jer\_2:22). The punishment that goes with this deliberate act as a consequence is indicated by the word also (Gen\_4:13; Isa\_53:11). (Zodhiates)

## 7. "To bring in everlasting righteousness"

- a) As was pointed out earlier, these six infinitive clauses can be seen as paired and corresponding – the first with the fourth, the second with the fifth, and the third with the sixth.

"This fourth expression forms the positive supplement of the first: in the place of the absolutely removed transgression is the perfected righteousness." (K&D)

- b) "To bring in" – וּלְהָבִיא – the infinitive stem of Hiphil would make this literally read, "to cause to come" – "refers to some direct agency by which the righteousness would be introduced into the world" (Barnes).
- c) "Everlasting righteousness" - צְדָקָה עֲלָמִים – the order in Hebrew is reversed – righteousness everlasting.

*(1) The word for "righteousness" is a common word, used 117 times in the*

Hebrew. It means "a right relation to an ethical or legal standard" (Zodhiates). In the case of scriptural righteousness on the part of mankind, it is that which puts us in right standing with what God has declared in His word as the standard for life. "The fair meaning would be, that some method would be introduced by which men would become 'righteous'" (Barnes).

- (2) "Everlasting" – עֲלְמָיִם – this noun is plural in Hebrew, but since the English word "everlasting" is already plural, in essence, the plural is lost. This phrase would literally read, "righteousness of ages." The use of "everlasting" is to show that this righteousness would endure for eternity, forever. But, the use of the word in plural shows that it began in one age and will last through them all on into eternity. In other words, the fulfillment of this prophecy for Israel (considering that's the direct context here), and then for Gentiles (as all, in Christ, are of Abraham's seed) ultimately began with the work of Christ on the cross and will finally be fulfilled when all events of prophecy are fulfilled.

### Galatians 3:29

**29** And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

*Although the fulfillment of the prophecy began with Christ, the principle of righteousness has always been the same. "[T]he righteousness by which the saints in all ages from the beginning of the world are justified; and which*

*endures, and will endure, throughout all ages, to the justification of all that believe; it is a robe of righteousness that will never wear out; its virtue to justify will ever continue, being perfect; it will answer for the justified ones in a time to come, and has eternal life connected with it..." (Gill)*

*"We first perceive how joyful a message is brought forward concerning the reconciliation of the people with God; and next, something promised far better and more excellent than anything which had been granted under the law, and even under the flourishing times of the Jews under David and Solomon. The angel here encourages the faithful to expect something better than what their fathers, whom God had adopted, had experienced. There is a kind of contrast between the expiation's under the law and this which the angel announces, and also between the pardon here promised and that which God had always given to his ancient people; and there is also the same contrast between the eternal righteousness and that which flourished under the law." (Calvin)*

*(3) All that said, the prophecy here is given so that Daniel, and all of Israel, and all believers of ages since, will have the assurance from God Himself that there will only be absolute, perfect righteousness for all eternity in all of creation, even that part of creation that has yet to be created ("Behold, I make all things new").*

[Isaiah 51:6](#)

<sup>6</sup> Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look upon the earth beneath: for the heavens shall vanish away like smoke, and the earth shall wax old like a garment, and they that dwell therein shall die in like manner: but my salvation shall be for ever, and my righteousness shall not be abolished.

Jeremiah 23:5-6

<sup>5</sup> Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

<sup>6</sup> In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

(4) *"It would place righteousness on a permanent and enduring foundation; introduce that which would endure through all changes, and exist when the heavens would be no more. In the plan itself there would be no change; in the righteousness which anyone would possess under that system there would be perpetual duration - it would exist forever and ever. This is the nature of that righteousness by which men are now justified; this is what all who are interested in the scheme of redemption actually possess. The 'way' in which this 'everlasting righteousness' would be introduced is not stated here, but is reserved for future revelations. Probably all that the words would convey to Daniel would be, that there would be some method disclosed by which men would become righteous,*

*and that this would not be temporary or changing, but would be permanent and eternal. It is not improper that 'we' should understand it, as it is explained by the subsequent revelations in the New Testament, as to the method by which sinners are justified before God."*  
(Barnes)

*This, we know, was what Christ came to do – to provide a way for us to be right with God.*

### Romans 3:20–22

<sup>20</sup> Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

<sup>21</sup> But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

<sup>22</sup> Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

### 2 Corinthians 5:21

<sup>21</sup> For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

## 8. "To seal up the vision and prophecy"

- a) The words "to seal up" are from the same Hebrew word as found in the second of these infinitive clauses – "to make an end." As you recall from the earlier text, the use of this word is to demonstrate something (or someone) has been confined and sealed

underneath the seal of the king's signet ring. Sins will be eventually eliminated from the righteous and will be forever under the "seal" of God Himself, confined to the prison of hell.

"When the sins are sealed, the prophecy is also sealed, for prophecy is needed in the war against sin; when sin is thus so placed that it can no longer operate, then prophecy also may come to a state of rest; when sin comes to an end in its place, prophecy can come to an end also by its fulfilment, there being no place for it after the setting aside of sin. And when the apostasy is shut up, so that it can no more spread about, then righteousness will be brought, that it may possess the earth, now freed from sin, shut up in its own place" (Kliefoth – as found in K&D).

- b) Again, as has been the case thus far, the fulfilment of this prophecy began with the work of Christ, and will finally and ultimately be fulfilled, finished, when eternity begins.

Luke 24:44-45

**44** And he said unto them, **These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

**45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

John 19:28-30

**28** After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the

scripture might be fulfilled, saith, **I thirst.**

<sup>29</sup> Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

<sup>30</sup> When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

c) "The vision and prophecy"

*(1) There is no definite article in the Hebrew, indicating this is not referencing any particular prophecy, including this particular one (of the Seventy Weeks) as some interpret it. This is covering all prophetic utterances, and all visions.*

*(2) When the final stage of the fulfillment of these prophecies (all of them), there would be an end to the need for them and they would be sealed for all eternity. The Word of God is eternal – never ending – but the need of the prophet and the prophecy will not be needed in eternity future because they will all have been fulfilled. They don't cease to be, they're just sealed – the work is done.*

*(3) The word for "prophecy" here – נְבִיאָה – is the word for "prophet." So, not just the prophecies themselves will be sealed, but the purpose of the prophet will be as well.*

*Not only the prophecy, but the prophet who gives it, i.e., not merely the prophecy, but also the calling of the prophet, must be sealed. Prophecies*

*and prophets are sealed, when by the full realization of all prophecies prophecy ceases, no prophets any more appear. The extinction of prophecy in consequence of its fulfilment is not, however (with Hengstenberg), to be sought in the time of the manifestation of Christ in the flesh; for then only the prophecy of the Old Covenant reached its end (cf. Matt. 11:13; Luke 22:37; John 1:46), and its place is occupied by the prophecy of the N.T., the fulfilling of which is still in the future, and which will not come to an end and terminate (καταργηθήσεται, 1 Cor. 13:8) till the kingdom of God is perfected in glory at the termination of the present course of the world's history, at the same time with the full conclusive fulfilment of the O.T. prophecy; cf. Acts 3:21. (K&D)*

## 9. "To anoint the most Holy"

- a) The word for "to anoint" - מָשַׁח, וְלִמָּשַׁח - "If the verb is used in association with a religious ceremony, it connotes the sanctification of things or people for divine service. Once the Tabernacle was erected, it and all its furnishings were anointed with oil to consecrate them (Exo. 40:9-11). The most common usage of this verb is the ritual of divine installation of individuals into positions of leadership by the pouring oil on their heads." (Zodhiates)
- b) The words for "the most Holy" - קֹדֶשׁ קְדוֹשִׁים - are literally "holy of holies" (used some forty times in Scripture) - note, there is no definite article in the original. There is a wide variety of interpretations on this (more so than any of the others, it seems). Some versions of the Bible (the ESV, ASV,

etc.) have this as anointing "a most holy place." Some translate it literally as "the holy of holies." The issue is, is this speaking of a place or a person, and if a place, what place and when? If a person, the context (vs. 25-26) would seem to indicate clearly who that would be.

- c) Considering the most common use of the holy anointing oil, and the most common use of the Hebrew word for "anoint" being the ritual of divine installation of individuals into positions of leadership, I take this to mean, as several versions of the Bible indicate, speaking of a Person, and the Person being that of the Messiah – the very name meaning "the anointed one." The problem is the words themselves are the same as used for the Holy of Holies of the Old Testament Tabernacle, but, as a study of the Tabernacle will show, every part pointed to Christ, especially that of the "Most Holy" – He IS the Most Holy Place. (In fact, we will see all of this in our study of the Old Testament Tabernacle in the not-so-distant future.)

### Exodus 26:33

**33** And thou shalt hang up the vail under the taches, that thou mayest bring in thither within the vail the ark of the testimony: and the vail shall divide unto you between the holy *place* and the most holy. [The word "place" was inserted by the translators for clarity but isn't in the original.]

"The act of anointing as a sign of consecration, though applied to the tabernacle (Ex. 30:26; 40:9), to the altar (Ex. 40:10), the laver (Ex. 40:11), is never applied to the holy of holies [the most

Holy]. It is applied most frequently to persons; as to Aaron (Ex. 40:13), to Saul (1 Sam. 10:1), to David (1 Sam. 16:3). The words of Gabriel thus point forward to a time when all iniquity shall be restrained, sin atoned for, and a priest anointed." (Pulpit Commentary)

- d) Some consider the "most Holy" to be the church, the people of God; many consider it the future temple of the Millennium (which will pass away from view when that time is completed); some (including myself) consider it to be the Messiah, standing in apposition to the Temple and the Tabernacle, and particularly The Most Holy place where the Mercy Seat was.

"[O]r it may be best of all to understand this of the Messiah, as Aben Ezra and others do; who is holy in his person, in both his natures, human and divine; sanctified and set apart to his office, and holy in the execution of it; equal in holiness to the Father and the Spirit; superior in it to angels and men, who have all their holiness from him, and by whom they are sanctified; and of whom the sanctuary or temple was a type; and who was anointed with the Holy Ghost as man, at his incarnation, baptism, and ascension to heaven; and Abarbinel owns it may be interpreted of the Messiah, who may be called the Holy of holies, because he is holier than all other Israelites." (Gill)

Conclusion to this point: The wonder of all this is that it describes for us today, in six clauses, six statements, all that Jesus came to do. He did it all for us – but He's not done yet. There's coming a time when it will be completely, and forever done.

### **III. THE DETAILS OF THE PROCESS OF THE PROPHECY – VS. 25-27 – THE OUTCOME**

A point needs to be made at the beginning of this portion of our study as it relates to the interpretation of this text. There are a myriad of views on this text – some from a non-Christological (where they don't see Christ as the Messiah here), while others hold to the Christological view but approach the prophecy from varied viewpoints. The two main views that are of importance is that of amillennialism and that of premillennialism. The amillennialist believe that this was historically fulfilled with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 A.D., while the premillennialist sees a two-part fulfillment – the first 69 years being historical and the final seven (vs. 27) are future prophecy. The latter of these two is my understanding and is how we will address the text.

I say all of that with the understanding that not everyone that listens to this message will agree with it all. What one's view of this text is should have no bearing on their eternal destiny with Christ as long as they understand and believe in the work of Christ on the cross.

#### ***A. Vs. 25-26 point to historical events of the past.***

1. The events of verse 25 cover 483 years and are separated into two groups – the first of "seven weeks" (49 years) and the second of "threescore (60) and two weeks" (434 years). These are specific numbers and maintaining our literal interpretation of Scripture unless the context indicates

otherwise, there is no reason to believe that this isn't a valid, literal number.

- a) "From the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem...shall be seven weeks" – The first "seven weeks" – 49 years – represent the time it took for the city of Jerusalem to be rebuilt under the leadership of Nehemiah and Ezra. "This work lasted forty-nine years after the commission was given by Artaxerxes" (Clarke). The year for this, by most historical accounts was 445 B.C.

"The best explanation seems to be that beginning with Nehemiah's decree and the building of the wall, it took a whole generation to clear out all the debris in Jerusalem and restore it as a thriving city. This might well be the fulfillment of the forty-nine years. The specific reference to streets again addresses our attention to Nehemiah's situation where the streets were covered with debris and needed to be rebuilt. That this was accomplished in troublesome times is fully documented by the book of Nehemiah itself." (Walvoord)

- b) "Unto the Messiah the Prince...three score and two weeks" – The next 62 weeks are the more difficult to correlate with history – but not so much so that a clear understanding cannot be had with the literal view in mind. This is a precise number and can be correlated with the coming of Christ as the Messiah, the Anointed One.

The question is, if the 69 weeks began in 445 B.C., when was it fulfilled?

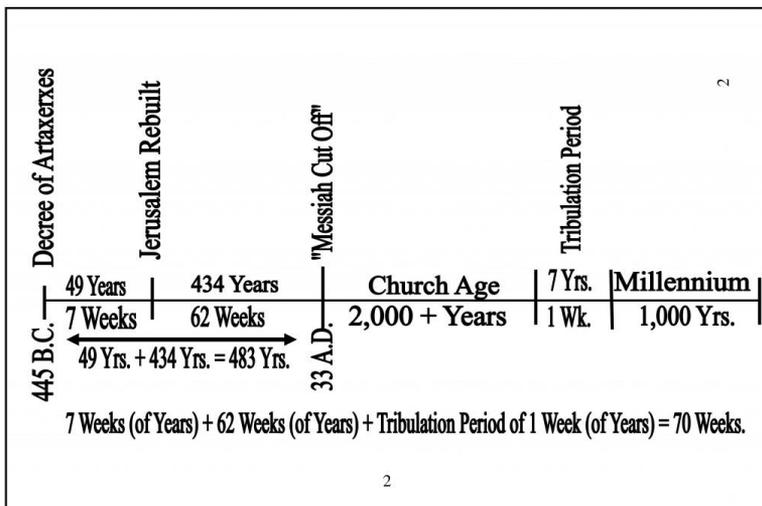
The following is from Dr. Walvoord's book

but is corroborated in many other sources, including Grant Jeffrey's book, "Countdown to the Apocalypse."

Robert Anderson has made a detailed study of a possible chronology for this period beginning with the well-established date of 445 B.C. when Nehemiah's decree was issued and culminating in A.D. 32 on the very day of Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem shortly before His crucifixion. Sir Robert Anderson specifies that the seventy sevens began on the first Nisan, March 14, 445 B.C. and ended on April 6, A.D. 32, the tenth Nisan. The complicated computation is based upon prophetic years of 360 days totaling 173,880 days. This would be exactly 483 years according to biblical chronology. Alva McClain concurs with Anderson.

That Sir Robert Anderson is right in building upon a 360-day year seems to be attested by the Scriptures. It is customary for the Jews to have twelve months of 360 days each and then to insert a thirteenth month occasionally when necessary to correct the calendar. The use of the 360-day year is confirmed by the forty-two months of the great tribulation (Rev 11:2; 13:5) being equated with 1,260 days (Rev 12:6; 11:3). The conclusions reached by Anderson, however, are quite complicated in their argument and impossible to restate simply. While the details of Anderson's arguments may be debated, the plausibility of a literal interpretation, which begins the period in 445 B.C. and culminates just before the death of Christ, makes this view very attractive. The principal difficulty is Anderson's conclusion that the death of Christ occurred A.D. 32. Generally

speaking, while there has been uncertainty as to the precise year of the death of Christ based upon present evidence, most New Testament chronologers move it one or two years earlier, and plausible attempts have been made to adjust Anderson's chronology to A.D. 30.<sup>5f</sup> There has been a tendency, however, in recent New Testament chronology to consider the possibility of a later date for the death of Christ, and no one today is able dogmatically to declare that Sir Robert Anderson's computations are impossible. Accordingly, the best explanation of the time when the sixty-nine sevens ended is that it occurred shortly before the death of Christ anticipated in Daniel 9:26 as following the sixty-ninth seven. Practically all expositors agree that the death of Christ occurred after the sixty-ninth seven.



- c) The final clause of this verse is pointing to historical facts from the book of Nehemiah as he records the difficulty he had with the enemies of God as they rebuilt the walls

and the city – “the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.” The word for wall (קִרְוִיץ) is one that speaks to both the wall that was built as well as a moat around the wall (in fact, the word speaks more to the moat in ancient writings).

#### Nehemiah 4:8

<sup>8</sup> And conspired all of them together to come and to fight against Jerusalem, and to hinder it.

#### Nehemiah 4:16–18

<sup>16</sup> And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah.

<sup>17</sup> They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.

<sup>18</sup> For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

2. Vs. 26 is dealing with the 62-week period mentioned in verse 25.

a) “And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off”

(1) *The word for “Messiah” (מָשִׁיחַ) does not always refer to Christ. It is a term used for anyone that is anointed – the priests of the Old Testament, kings of that time*

*period – and it is translated in the KJV 37 of the 39 times by the word "anointed." The other two times it is used is in these two verses in Daniel where it is translated "Messiah," as a proper noun, clearly pointing to the Person of Christ as the Messiah by the KJV translators. The ESV has it simply "an anointed one," and although that might be technically true in an absolute way, it limits the understanding of the Person in view, as well as dictates a particular theological, prophetic view that may not be accurate. Comparing the complete Scripture with this text, it is clear to see that Christ, as the Anointed One, fits the description recorded here by Daniel.*

(2) The word for "cut off" (כָּרַת, יִכָּרֵת) means "to hew down, to fell, to cut to pieces, signifies to be rooted up, destroyed, annihilated, and denotes generally a violent kind of death, though not always, but only the uprooting from among the living, or from the congregation..." (K&D).

- b) "But not for himself" - וְאֵין לוֹ - the first word in this phrase is a particle of non-existence, not one of negation necessarily but one of denial of the existence of a thing. Putting this together with the idea of being "cut off," it is not just speaking of His death on the cross, but is speaking judicially as well, in that when He was "cut off" He was no longer held to the Person of the Messiah, as the Jews wanted Him to be. On His entry into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday, He entered as King, but when they crucified Him, He was "cut off"

from being that Chosen One in the eyes of the Jews. That's the view here, as this prophecy relates to the nation of Israel. The Latin Vulgate even translates it that way – "The people that deny him, shall be no longer his."

That said, it in no way takes away from the truth that Jesus didn't die for any sins of His own, but for the sins of others (also, the judicial view from the theological perspective). He was "cut off" so we wouldn't have to be!

"Nothing that rightly belonged to Him as Messiah the Prince was given to Him at that time. He had not come into His full reward nor the exercise of His regal authority. He was the sacrificial lamb of God sent to take away the sins of the world. Outwardly it appeared that evil had triumphed." (Walvoord)

- c) "And the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary"

*(1) "The people of the prince that shall come" – the "people" here are the Roman people of the ancient Roman Empire during Jesus' day. "The prince" is in reference to the yet-future antichrist of the Tribulation Period (this being another reference to support the belief that he is from the area of the earth that was the ancient Roman Empire). (This "prince" will be studied further in the exegesis of verse 27 to follow. Suffice it to say at this point that the "prince" spoken of is not Titus – it doesn't say "the prince of the people," but, "the people of the prince.")*

*"[T]hat is, the people of the Romans, under Vespasian their prince, emperor, and general, should, in a little time after the cutting off of the Messiah, enter into the land of Judea, and destroy the city of Jerusalem, and the temple that stood in it..." (Gill)*

*Titus was Vespasian's son and led the army in destroying Jerusalem.*

- (2) *"Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary" – this was done under General Titus in 70 A.D.*

*"In AD 70, only thirty-eight years after Christ prophesied the destruction of Jerusalem (see Luke 19:41–44), the Roman legions besieged the city, killing more than one million inhabitants. The Roman army leveled Jerusalem and the beautiful Temple, fulfilling Christ's prophecy that 'they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another' (Luke 19:44). The fearsome cries of the people, 'Let him be crucified' (Matthew 27:23) and 'His blood be on us, and on our children' (27:25), were tragically fulfilled. In his book Wars of the Jews, Flavius Josephus recorded that during the final siege of Jerusalem in AD 70, the hills surrounding the city were covered with thousands of crosses bearing the bodies of Jewish soldiers and civilians who were crucified by the Romans (up to five hundred every day)." – as found in "Countdown to the Apocalypse" by Grant Jeffrey*

- (3) *"And the end thereof shall be with a flood" – "the end of the city and temple, and of the whole nation, should be by*

*the Roman army, which, like a flood, would overspread the land, and carry all before it. It denotes the number, power, and irresistible force of the enemy, and the sad devastation made by them..." (Gill)*

(4) *"And unto the end of the war desolations are determined" – "from the beginning of the war by the Romans with the Jews, to the end of it, there would be nothing but continual desolations; a dreadful havoc and ruin everywhere; and all this appointed and determined by the Lord, as a just punishment for their sins." (Gill)*

*The word for "determined" (נִחְרְצָת, חָרַץ) is one that, in its use here as a participle, means to determine, to define, to decide something, referring to something set or determined or decreed (Zodhiates).*

Conclusion to the point: No matter what someone's view of this text may be, what matters is that we know God has a plan for this age, as He has had for all ages previous, and He has a plan for those yet to come. Our responsibility as a believer is to make sure we are walking with Him in this age we live and serving Him so that others may see Christ in us.

Jesus is going to return – are we ready?

***B. Vs. 27 point to something yet future – the Tribulation period and the “man of sin,” “the beast,” “the antichrist.” There is a “gap” between verse 26 and verse 27 – the Age of Grace, or the Church Age. There is no mention of this in prophetic books, but it is explainable. The following may help illustrate:***

“The students of prophecy frequently speak of the stopping of God’s clock when Israel is out of fellowship with Him. A great principle that dominates His dealing with Israel, His Chosen People, is expressed by this illustration...

“I might use a simple illustration to enforce this truth. All large firms have regular clocks that are controlled electrically and that strike off the hours, both day and night, for 365 days every year. Many of them also have a time clock for measuring, for instance, telephone calls. Just as soon as the connection is made by the operator, the subscriber starts it and can tell to the very second how long the conversation lasts. When he finishes he stops it. Hence this small desk clock simply measures off a special time for a definite purpose, whereas the regular one measures every hour. The years come and go regardless of whether or not Israel is in fellowship with God, and His great universal clock strikes off the hours. But, since He called her into a special relationship with Himself, He, figuratively speaking, has a time clock to measure the years when she is in fellowship with Him.” (David L. cooper, “The 70 Weeks of Daniel – 1941)

1. The final week of the Seventy Week prophecy – “And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week.”

a) “He” – the antecedent for this pronoun is “the prince” of verse 26. As we mentioned in the previous point, this is, viewing this week as yet future, the Antichrist, who rises up out of the revived Roman Empire (from the ancient Roman Empire – refer to notes on Daniel 7, and the fourth beast in that vision).

Some gifted, godly scholars believe this to be Christ, the Messiah, rather than the Antichrist (even the Geneva Bible notes have it that way), and they attempt to make this fit His earthly lifetime. Although some parts may fit, the entirety of the passage shows that it He does not fit all, especially in the literal, historical interpretation. Although the need for the “sacrifice and oblation” did cease with His redemptive work, that does not account for the terms used.

b) “Shall confirm the covenant”

(1) “He shall confirm” – וְהִגְבִּיר – *the primary force of this word is that of binding, and its use in the Hiphil stem means to make strong, firm, to confirm.*

(2) “The covenant” – בְּרִית – *literally, “a covenant” – there is no definite article in the Hebrew with this word.*

*“A sacred kinship bond between two parties, ratified by swearing an oath. Covenant making was a widespread custom throughout the ancient Near*

*East and Graeco-Roman culture, serving as a means to forge sociopolitical bonds between individuals or groups. God's covenants are prominent in every period of salvation history. Divine covenants reveal the saving plan of God for establishing communion with Israel and the nations, ultimately fulfilled by the death and resurrection of Christ." (Lexham Bible Dictionary)*

*"Therefore the thought is this: That ungodly prince shall impose on the mass of the people a strong covenant that they should follow him and give themselves to him as their God."*

- c) "With many" – most scholars agree that this is going back to verse 24, the beginning of the explanation of the details of this prophecy and is referencing "thy people" – Daniel's people, Israel.

"The precise prophecy of verse 27 indicates that the personage in view enters into a covenant relationship with many, literally, "with the many," (cf. many, literally, "the many," Dan 11:39; 12:2). This is a clear reference to unbelieving Jews who will enter into alliance with the prince that shall come. That they are Jews is indicated by thy people in verse 24. If the preceding chronology is understood to involve literal years, this should also be a seven-year period. In a word, the prophecy is that there will be a future compact or covenant between a political ruler designated as the prince that shall come in verse 26 with the representatives of the Jewish people. Such an alliance will obviously be an unholy relationship and ultimately to the detriment

of the people of Israel, however promising it may be at its inception." (Walvoord)

That said, there is no amount of certainty on the subject of to whom the "many" refers.

2. "And in the midst of the week" – three and half years into the Tribulation period things change drastically. The first three and half years of that are peaceful. The second half is that of destruction and the wrath of God poured out on the earth.
  - a) The word for "midst" – תְּצִי – is one that means half of, or middle, so it is clearly speaking of the midway point of seven years.
  - b) This goes back to Daniel 7:23-25 and the vision dealt with in that prophecy, as well as to Revelation 11, 12, and 13.

On that point, here is what was given on Daniel 7 (we studied this six months ago).

- c) "And they shall be given into his hand until the time and times and the dividing of time."

*(1) "They" – the saints of God*

*(2) "Shall be given into his hands" – he shall successfully wage war against the saints and martyr many of them.*

*(3) "Time and times and the dividing of time" – a "time" is the longest measurable period of time in the Aramaic (one year); "times" is two times a time (two years); and "the*

*dividing of time" is half of a time (half a year) – combined, 3 1/2 years – the same as the 1260 days or 42 months (there were 30 days in the month in their calendar –  $42 \times 30 = 1260$ ).*

#### Daniel 12:7

<sup>7</sup> And I heard the man clothed in linen, which was upon the waters of the river, when he held up his right hand and his left hand unto heaven, and swore by him that liveth for ever that it shall be for a time, times, and an half; and when he shall have accomplished to scatter the power of the holy people, all these things shall be finished.

#### Revelation 11:2-3

<sup>2</sup> But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

<sup>3</sup> And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.

#### Revelation 12:6

<sup>6</sup> And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

#### Revelation 12:14

<sup>14</sup> And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle, that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and

times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent.

#### Revelation 13:5

<sup>5</sup> And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

#### Revelation 13:7

<sup>7</sup> And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

### 3. "He shall cause the sacrifice and oblation to cease"

- a) The "prince" of verse 26 – the Antichrist is the "he."
- b) יִשְׁבֵּית – he shall bring an end, he is the cause of the end – he breaks the peace treaty with restored Israel.
- c) "The sacrifice" – a sacrifice, or simply "shall cause sacrifice and oblation to cease" – there is no definite article in the Hebrew.

The verb form of this word – זָבַח – means to slaughter for sacrifice, and the noun form speaks of that sacrificed animal.

- d) "And the oblation" – a gift, tribute, an offering – both the animal sacrifices would end, as well as the other varied offerings that were given for the work of the Lord that were put into the treasury.

e) This is one text we can use to show that the Temple will be rebuilt and in use for the first three and half years of the Tribulation. In apologetic understanding, in order for something to cease to be it first had to be. If the sacrifice and oblation is caused to cease by the Antichrist, and the only place those were to take place according to the Levitical Law was the Temple, then the Temple must first be rebuilt.

4. "And for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate"

a) This is perhaps the most puzzling portion of this verse, and that is primarily for the word translated "overspreading" in the KJV. The word - כָּנְף - is one most often translated by the word "wing," in its various forms (80 of the 109 times it is used). The word "overspreading" is the most applicable use of the word in this context, but even then, it seems out of place. The "wings," or the "overspreading" seem to point to the wings of the Cherubim on the Mercy Seat that overspread the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies. It is this very place that the abomination of desolation will take place.

The verb form of this - כָּנַף - means to cover or to cover over, which is its primary meaning.

Much has been written on this clause but some of the earliest varied languages help us understand what the early church fathers interpreted it to mean.

*(1) The Latin Vulgate - "And in the temple there shall be abomination."*

(2) *The Septuagint – "And upon the temple there shall be the abomination of desolation."*

(3) *The Arabic – "And upon the sanctuary there shall be the abomination of ruin."*

- b) It is this phrase that is referenced by Jesus Himself in what is called The Olivet Discourse.

Matthew 24:15–16

**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:)

**16** Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Mark 13:14

**14** But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not, (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains:

Luke 21:20

**20** And when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the desolation thereof is nigh.

- c) We will see in our study of chapter eleven that this is exactly what Antiochus Epiphanes did in the second century B.C.

5. "Even until the consummation" – this word means completion, the final end, and is seen as complete destruction or annihilation. This desolation and

destruction will last until the end of the seventieth week, or until the end of the Tribulation, when it will be finally and forever finished and destroyed.

6. "And that determined shall be poured upon the desolate" – and that which is determined is poured out on the desolate.
  - a) "That determined" – At that point, when the end has come, the doom of the "prince," the Antichrist, which has already been determined, or decreed, will be poured out.
  - b) "Shall be poured upon the desolate" – shall be poured out, in all its fury, upon the desolate, or as some have it personified, "the desolator."
  - c) The end of the Antichrist is determined, and nothing will change that time, nor the ferociousness of that end.

Conclusion: Even with the wide disparity of opinions on these several verses, the truth is still there and still understandable – that's the reason God sent Gabriel to Daniel. To "understand the matter" is still important for us today. These verses will help us know, especially now, with the rampant unrest in this country and around the world, that God has had a plan from the start and that plan is still the same – to make sure all have heard the message of the cross so they can all be free from "the wrath to come."