

God's 490-Year Plan for Israel?

Daniel 9:24-27

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction:

- My "rating" system for home buying
- God's individual plans for you and I.
 - Ephesians 1:4-6-- *"Just as He choose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved."*
 - Ephesians 2:10-- *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."*
- God's plan for the ages. A review of the dispensations.
- God's plans for the church, the body of Christ
 - The "rapture" of the church
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17-- *"the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."*
 - Our transformed physical bodies
 - 1 Corinthians 15:53-- *"for this corruptible must put on incorruption and this mortal must put on immortality."*
 - The Judgment Seat of Christ for clarification, commendation, and conciliation
 - The worship of God and the Lamb for eternity
- God's plans for those left here on earth: a plan for the Jews, and one of the Gentiles
 - Already answered the question, *"Is God finished with Israel?"*
 - *"But what are God specific plans for the Jews? What does the future hold for them?"*

God's 490-Year Plan for Israel?

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

A. The Plan involves Daniel's people and the Holy City

1. The plan is given in response to Daniel's prayer in Daniel 9:4-19
2. The plan, especially the last week of the plan, is not fulfilled by the church.

B. The Plan involves a set period of time. "Seventy weeks" or "Seventy sevens"

1. We measure years of time in terms of base ten—decades, centuries, millenniums
2. Daniel's people, the Jews, measured years of times in terms of base "seven".
 - a. Seven days of creation and days of a week.
 - b. Planting and harvesting cycles divided into seven year segments

- Leviticus 25:2-5-- *“Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you come into the land which I give you, then the land shall keep a Sabbath to the LORD. Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather its fruit; but in the seventh year there shall be a Sabbath of solemn rest for the land, a Sabbath to the LORD. You shall neither sow your field nor prune your vineyard. What grows of its own accord of your harvest you shall not reap, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine, for it is a year of rest for the land.’”*
- c. Every “seven sevens” or 49 years would be the year of Jubilee.
 - Leviticus 25:10-12-- *“Consecrate the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout all the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a Jubilee for you; and each of you shall return to his possession, and each of you shall return to his family. That fiftieth year shall be a Jubilee to you; in it you shall neither sow nor reap what grows of its own accord, nor gather the grapes of your untended vine. For it is the Jubilee; it shall be holy to you; you shall eat its produce from the field.”*
 - d. Jews were accustomed to dividing years into seven year segments or cycles, thus “seventy sevens” or seventy cycles of seven years each our equal 490 years.
3. **Why 490 years and not less or more?**
- a. Connected to the 70 years that the Jews spent in captivity in Babylon
 - b. Every seven years, the Sabbatical year, the land was to rest.
 - c. Israel failed to obey God and allow the land to rest.
 - Leviticus 26:33-34-- *“I will scatter you among the nations and draw out a sword after you; your land shall be desolate and your cities waste. Then the land shall enjoy its Sabbaths as long as it lies desolate and you are in your enemies’ land; then the land shall rest and enjoy its Sabbaths. As long as it lies desolate it shall rest—for the time it did not rest on your sabbaths when you dwelt in it.”*
 - d. God redeems those “Seventy sevens” by granting them another 490 years in which He will accomplish His righteous purposes.

C. The Plan involves spiritual purposes or goals.

- Daniel 9:24-- *“Seventy weeks are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.”*
1. **“To finish the transgressions”**—to bring to an end Israel’s national transgressions and rebellion
 2. **“To make an end of sins”**
 - Job 14:17 -- *“My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and you cover my iniquity”*
 3. **“To make reconciliation or atonement for iniquity”**
 - a. On the Day of Atonement, blood sacrifices were made to cover sins for 12 months.
 - b. The sacrifices did not permanently take away sin.
 - Hebrews 10:1-3-- *“same sacrifice repeated endlessly year after year” could never “make perfect those who draw near to worship...Would they have not stopped being offered? For the worshipper would have been cleansed once and for all, and would no longer have felt guilt for their sins... But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.”*
 - c. Christ’s sacrifice on the cross paid in full for our sins.
 - Romans 3:25-- *“Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God passed over sins that were previously committed.”*

- d. The actual application and realization of the atonement for Israel is still future.
 - Zechariah 12:10 -- *"will look on Me (that is, Jesus Christ) whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn."*
 - Zechariah 13:1-- *"In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness."*
 - Romans 11:26-27-- *"all Israel will be saved, as it is written, 'The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this is My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.'"*

- 4. ***"To bring in everlasting righteousness"*** or an "age" of righteousness.
 - Jeremiah 23:5-6-- *"reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land... the LORD our Righteousness"*
 - Isaiah 60:21-- *"Then will all your people be righteous and they will possess the land forever."*

- 5. ***"To seal up the vision and the prophecy"***
 - a. Indicates a time when visions and prophecies will cease.
 - Revelation 22:18-- *"If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book."*
 - b. Indicates that what has been prophesied will be fulfilled literally in the Kingdom

- 6. ***"To anoint the Most Holy"***
 - a. Not a reference to Christ.
 - b. But a reference to the consecration or dedication of the Millennial Temple.
 - 1) Prophesied in Joel 3, Isaiah 60, Jeremiah 33, and Ezekiel 40-48
 - 2) Antichrist will desecrate the temple during the tribulation period—2 Thessalonians 2:4
 - 3) Jesus Christ will cleanse the temple and fill it with his glory.
 - Ezekiel 43:4-- *"the glory of the LORD came into the temple by way of the gate which faces toward the east"*
 - Ezekiel 37:26-27-- *"will set My sanctuary in the midst forevermore. My tabernacle shall also be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people."*

D. The 490-Year Plan broken down into segments.

- Daniel 9:25-27-- *"Know and understand that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The streets shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."*

- 1. First "seven weeks" or 49 years for the rebuilding of the city of Jerusalem and its infrastructure.
- 2. "Sixty-two weeks" or 434 years from the time the city is rebuilt until the public presentation of Messiah the Prince.
- 3. A gap between the 69th and 70th week of indeterminate duration during which time the Messiah is cut off, the city of Jerusalem is destroyed by the Romans, and a period of desolation for the land of Israel.
- 4. The "Seventieth week" or 7 years still future when God will once again work with Israel to accomplish his spiritual purposes or goals

APPLICATION: God's Plan for us!

- Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)-- *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*