

Sermon Series: Daniel: Christ Among the Exiles

Sermon Text: Daniel 9:24-27 Seventy Weeks of Waiting

Daniel 9:23–27 (NKJV)

²³ At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell *you*, for you *are* greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

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.

²⁵ “Know therefore and understand,
That from the going forth of the command
To restore and build Jerusalem
Until Messiah the Prince,
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;
The street shall be built again, and the wall,
Even in troublesome times.

²⁶ “And after the sixty-two weeks
Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself;
And the people of the prince who is to come
Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.
The end of it *shall be* with a flood,
And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

²⁷ Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;
But in the middle of the week
He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.
And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,
Even until the consummation, which is determined,
Is poured out on the desolate.”

Through Christ’s death and vindication God secures our Sabbath-rest and Jubilee-liberty.

1) Sabbath, Sabbatical and Jubilee as signs of God’s covenant of grace.

- a) Sabbath as covenant sign (Exod. 31:13, 16; Isa. 56:4, 6; Ezek. 20:12, 20)
 - i) Weekly Sabbath—regular need for holy-rest
 - ii) High Sabbaths—3 annual festivals to celebrate redemptive **liberty** (Day of Atonement, Passover, Pentecost)
 - iii) Sabbatical Years (every seventh year)—**rest** for God’s land
 - iv) Jubilee (every 49 years; 7 Sabbaticals)—**liberty** for slaves and debtors
 - v) Signified peace with God and freedom from sin/idolatry to serve the LORD.
- b) Sabbath breaking is covenant breaking

- i) Leviticus 26:27-46 Exile of Israel to give the land its Sabbatical-rests
- ii) Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10 70 years of exile; each year a Sabbatical-year=70 Sabbatical Years (2 Chron. 36:21)
- c) Return from Exile a Second Exodus—rest in the land and liberty to serve God (Lev. 26:45)
- d) **Application:**
 - i) Practicing God's lordship of time enjoys God's goodness (rest and liberty).
 - ii) Practicing God's lordship of time reminds us that God is Lord at all times (exile and tribulation).

2) Divine Sabbatical-rest and Jubilee-liberty promised to exiles.

- a) Seventy sabbaticals are now ordained for the full restoration of God's people to Himself (v. 24).
 - i) Jeremiah's prophecy of 70 years of exile fulfilled that year.
 - ii) Those 70 condensed Sabbatical Years are now expanded to 70 Sabbatical Years with people back in the Promised Land.
 - (1) 70 Sabbatical Years=490 Years (7x10=perfect **rest**)
 - (2) 70 Sabbatical Years=10 Jubilees (10=complete **liberty**)
 - (3) "To finish the transgression"—original sin in Adam
 - (4) "To make an end of sins"—particular sins of each individual
 - (5) "To make reconciliation for iniquity"—full atonement for peace with God
 - (6) "To bring in everlasting righteousness"—permanently restored covenant relationship between God and man
 - (7) "To seal up vision and prophecy"—authentication of prophetic promise by ultimate fulfillment
 - (8) "And to anoint the Most Holy"—double entendre: Holy of Holies as sanctuary; and Most Holy One as Messiah
- b) The Seventy Sabbatical Years begin with the command to restore and build Jerusalem in the first year of Cyrus (v. 25, 2 Chron. 36:22-23; 539 BC) or with the decree to resume work on Temple by Darius (Ezra 6; 520 BC) or with the decree to complete work on Jerusalem by Artaxerxes I (Nehemiah 2; 445 BC).
- c) Gabriel describes 3 phases of the Seventy Sabbatical Years: i) 7 Sabbatical Years; ii) 62 Sabbatical Years; iii) 70th Sabbatical Year.
 - i) A foretaste of rest and liberty: The **first 7 Sabbatical Years** concerns the rebuilding of the Temple under Ezra and the rebuilding of the walls of Jerusalem under Nehemiah.
 - ii) Troubled times for God's people: The **62 Sabbatical Years** concern the trials of the Jews under Greek and Roman oppression while continuing to restore and rebuild the city.
 - iii) The fulfillment of rest and liberty in Christ: During the **70th Sabbatical Year** Messiah is cut off (Death; covenant curse and covenant establishment) and Jerusalem and the Temple are destroyed (Vindication).
 - (1) The Messiah will strengthen the covenant for one week/Sabbatical Year (v. 27): New Covenant confirms and strengthens the Covenant of Grace
 - (2) The Messiah will bring an end to sacrifice and offering: Christ's death completes the OT sacrificial system; the desolation of Jerusalem and Temple ensures the Divine cessation of ritual sacrifice for sin

d) **Application:**

- i) Are you resting in Christ Jesus by faith?
- ii) Are you enjoying your liberty in Christ Jesus by faith?
- iii) Are you using your liberty to serve Christ and others? Or, are you abusing your liberty to serve your sin?
- iv) How can you proclaim the Year of Jubilee in Christ Jesus?

Doxology: Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations! Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. All nations will come and worship You, for Your righteous acts have been revealed. (Revelation 15: 3-4 ESV)