

TEXT- Daniel 9:24-27 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people . . .

INTRO – It seems people today are looking for something. People desire peace in their country and in their lives. Often people try to fill their void with pleasure, money, or power. Yet the world cannot provide lasting peace. The announcement to the shepherd by the angels was “Peace on earth” The wise men from the east are most probably from Persia. (Ancient Babylon) Though 500 years after the time of Daniel it is likely that his influence still remained in some form among pious religious leaders. These magi (Wise men) must have had at least the writings of Daniel and had been looking forward to the coming of the Messiah.

Of Daniel little more is known, or can now be ascertained, than is recorded in this book. Daniel is twice mentioned by Ezekiel, once along with Noah and Job, and once as eminent for wisdom. “*Though these three men, Noah, Daniel, and Job, were in it, they should deliver but their own souls by their righteousness, saith the Lord God*” Eze 14:14. “*Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee*” Eze 28:3.

He was descended from one of the highest families in Judah, if not one of royal blood - Dan 1:3

At an early age we find him in Babylon, among the captive Hebrews whom Nebuchadnezzar had carried away at the first deportation of the people of Judah, in the fourth year of Jehoiakim. He is mentioned in connection with three other Jewish youths, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, Dan 1:3-4. His age at that time was somewhere about twelve or fifteen years.

In 1:1-2:3, the writing is in Hebrew, but from Dan 2:4 to Dan 7:28, it is in the Chaldean language.

The Book of Daniel is not arranged in chronological order. In the first half, Daniel interprets the *dreams* of others; in the last half, he is given *visions* of his own concerning the future of his people. The historical order:

- Dan 1:1-21 Captivity (605-604 B.C.)
- Dan 2:1-49 Interpreting the dream of the image (602 B.C.)
- Dan 3:1-30 Nebuchadnezzar’s image
- Dan 4:1-37 Nebuchadnezzar’s tree dream
- Dan 7:1-28 The vision of the four beasts (556 B.C.)
- Dan 8:1-27 Ram and he goat vision (554 B.C.)
- Dan 5:1-31 Belshazzar’s feast — Babylon falls (539 B.C.)
- Dan 9:1-27 Vision of seventy weeks (538 B.C.)
- Dan 6:1-28 The lions’ den
- 10-12 Closing visions

I. The Importance of the Word of God

A. Daniel was a student of the OT Scriptures, Jer 25:1-14, He could See that his people would be in Babylon for seventy years. Daniel realized

that the seventy years of captivity were about to close. Babylon invaded Palestine and began its siege in 606 B.C., and Daniel understood the prophecies in the year 539-38 B.C.; so there were but two years left in the seventy years promised by Jeremiah

B. God does not give people “visions and dreams” when He can Teach them through His Word. Today His Spirit teaches us through the Word. Beware of “new revelations”

Daniel is introduced to— seventy “weeks” (seven-year periods), making a total of 490 years of prophetic time for the Jews. The word “weeks” in **Dan 9:24** is actually “sevens” — seventy sevens are determined, making 490 years.) Please note that this 490-year period of time has to do with Jerusalem and the Jews: “*your people . . . your holy city . . .*” (**Dan 9:24 4**). And God has specific purposes to fulfill in this period: the removing of sin and the bringing in of righteousness. The result will be the anointing of the most holy place in the temple, that is, the return of Jesus Christ to the earth to reign in glory from His temple in Jerusalem.

These 483 years are in two parts — **seven weeks (7 x 7 = 49 years), and sixty-two weeks (62 x 7 = 434 years).**

It took forty-nine years to rebuild Jerusalem, and this was done “in troublesome times.” Then, 434 years later we come to Messiah, the Prince, who is “cut off” (His death on the cross) for the sins of the world. It was His death on the cross that accomplished the purposes given in **Dan 9:24.**

C. The wise men from the east must have known this prophecy and acted upon it. The Word of God motivated them to seek the Savior.

D. They saw the star and went to Jerusalem to find Him.

E. They sought the leaders of Jerusalem to explain where the child would be born. They worshipped the child Jesus and brought gifts.

II. Wise men seek Him

A. The shepherds sought Him

B. B. Simeon sought him

C. Anna sought Him

D. The public was looking for Him

John 4:25 *The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.*

Luke 3:15 *And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;*

John 1:40-41 *One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.*

III. The World Is Looking For Something

There are those that hate Jesus and the gospel and there are those seeking peace.

Jeremiah 8:11 *For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.*

- **They are looking in the wrong places.**

But for many of us, trying to keep up is just a cycle of self-destruction. Mental health issues are more prevalent than ever before; suicide is a common part of our social circles rather than a rare occurrence. Expectations and demands are through the roof, and you're no longer just competing with your classroom or your office or your town; you're competing against the whole world. And this is why inner peace has never been more crucial to our lives.

IV. How to Find Inner Peace

Are you searching for peace? Are you longing for it? You thought you would find it if you made a lot of money, but you didn't find it. You thought you would find it in getting and accumulating a lot of knowledge, so you got all the degrees you could, but you didn't find it, this peace. You've searched the religions of the world, but you haven't found it. There are a thousand ways you've turned, trying to find peace, but you haven't found it. When you come to Christ by an act of faith, He gives you the Holy Spirit who produces the fruit of the Spirit and gives you the peace that passes all understanding.

Isaiah 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, **The Prince of Peace.***

Galatians 5:22-23 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

Luke 2:14 *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

CONCL – Peace with God comes from salvation - Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

The peace of God comes from seeking God - Ph 4:6-7 *Be careful for nothing but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*