



DANIEL

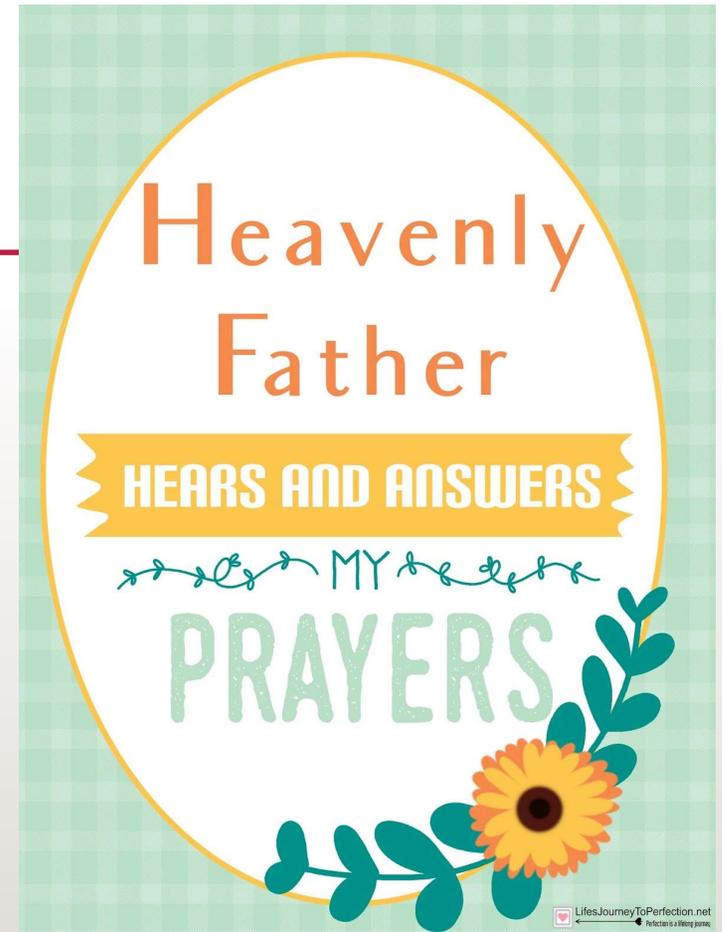
9:21-27

THE SEVENTY WEEKS



VERSE 21

- “While he was speaking” – God answers prayer even before we are finished. He knows what we need before we ask.
- If there is delay, it is only because his timing is perfect and not always the same as ours.
- He is our father – willing to answer prayer
- He is in heaven – able to answer prayer

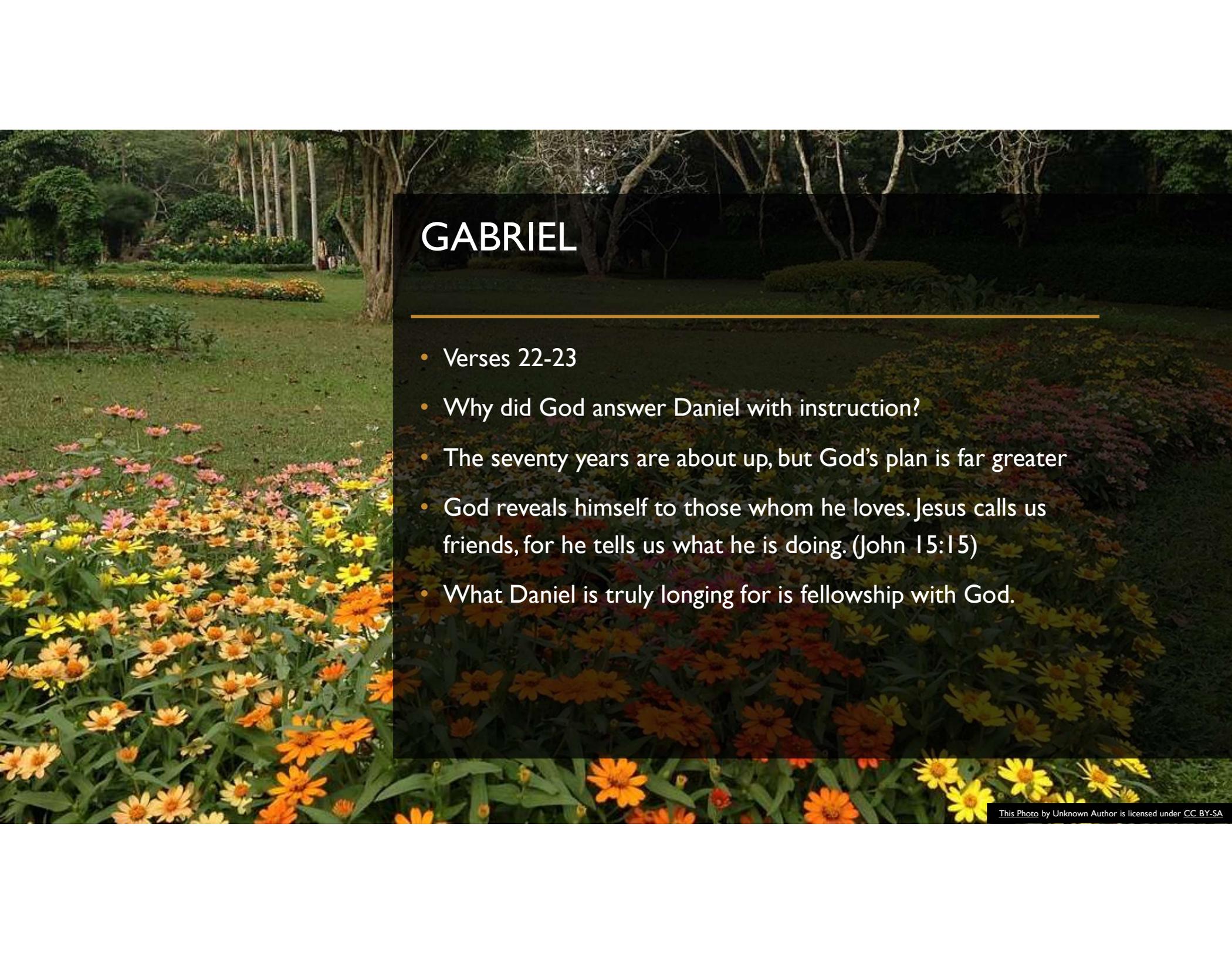




EVENING OBLATION

- This is the sacrifice offered in the temple every evening.
- But the temple was destroyed.
- Daniel had not seen an evening sacrifice for 70 years
- And yet he still made it a part of his life, his memory, his worship.

- Already seventy years had passed away, during which Daniel had never observed any sacrifice offered; and yet he still mentions sacrifices as if he were in the habit of attending daily in the Temple, which was not really in existence. Whence it appears how God's servants, though deprived of the outward means of grace for the present moment, are yet able to make them practically useful by meditating upon God, and the sacrifices, and other rites, and ceremonies of His institution. If any one in these days is cast into prison, and even prohibited from enjoying the Lord's Supper to the end of his life, yet he ought not on that account to cast away the remembrance of that sacred symbol; but should consider within himself every day, why that Supper was granted us by Christ, and what advantages he desires us to derive from it. Such, then, we perceive were the feelings of the holy Prophet, because he speaks of these daily sacrifices as if then in actual use. Yet we know them to have been abolished, and he could not have been present at them for many years, although during that period the Temple was standing. (Calvin)

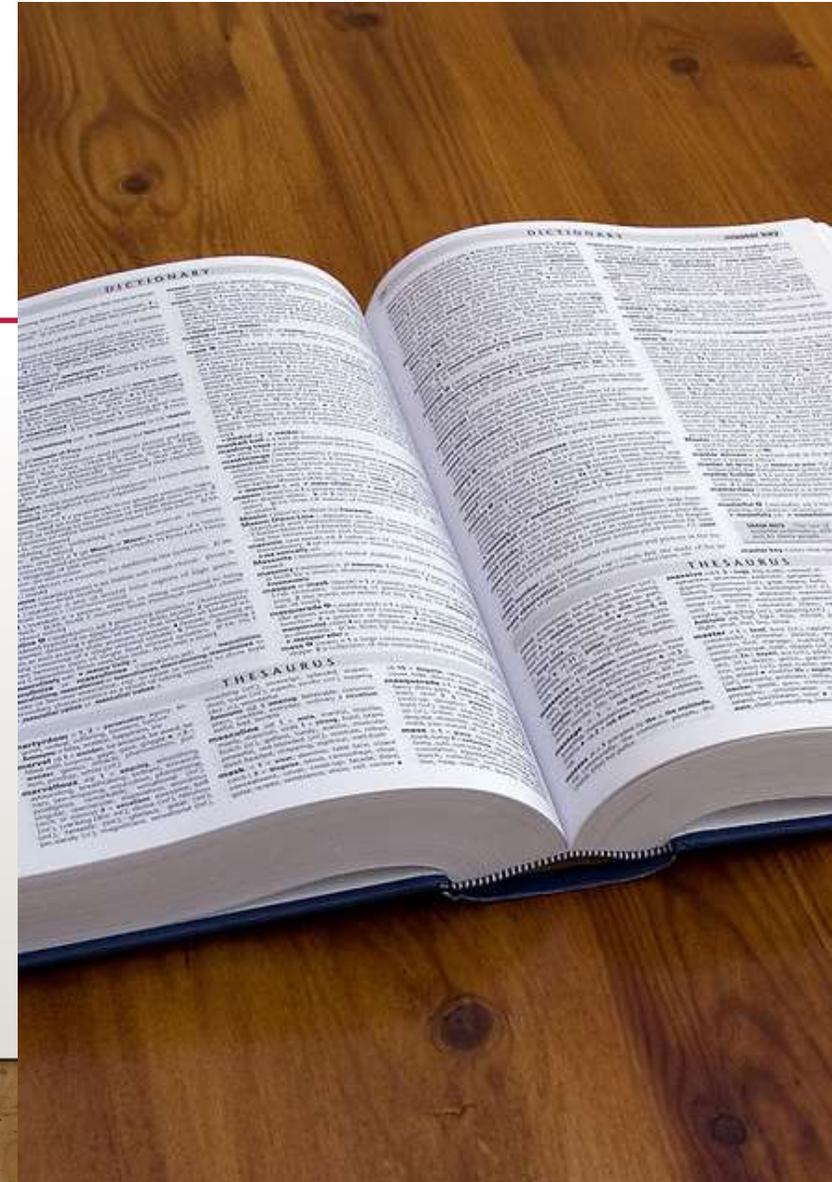


GABRIEL

- Verses 22-23
- Why did God answer Daniel with instruction?
- The seventy years are about up, but God's plan is far greater
- God reveals himself to those whom he loves. Jesus calls us friends, for he tells us what he is doing. (John 15:15)
- What Daniel is truly longing for is fellowship with God.

THE CONTEXT

- When we read about an answer given in the scripture, it is helpful to know what the question was.
- This would prevent many errors.
- Daniel's prayer is based upon the covenant curses and blessings.
- The ground of his prayer is the promise of God.
- He remembers Solomon's prayer.





THE SEVENTY YEARS – THE FULFILLMENT

- Jeremiah's prophecy is about to be fulfilled, but God's plan is for something far greater.
- Not in seventy years, but in seventy sevens.
- But the true desires of Daniel's heart will be given to him in due time.

DANIEL'S PRAYER; GOD'S ANSWER

DANIEL'S PRAYER

- Confession of sin
- Acknowledgement of God's justice
- A desire for restoration
- A desire for God to be glorified
- A desire for the removal of sin and shame
- "Turn your anger away"
- Cause your face to shine on your Holy Place

GOD'S ANSWER

- Transgression will be completed
- The sin offering (or sin) will be ended
- Iniquity will be covered
- Everlasting righteousness will be brought in
- Vision will be sealed
- The Most Holy Anointed

TRANSGRESSION WILL BE COMPLETED

- Or “finished”.
- It was because of transgression that Israel was exiled and afflicted.
- Fools because of their transgression, and because of their iniquities, are afflicted. (Ps. 107:17)
- If transgressions are not finished, if there is no end to them, what hope does anyone have?

THE SIN OFFERING (OR SIN) WILL BE ENDED

- The word for “sin” and for “sin offering” are the same in Hebrew.
- The temple will be rebuilt, but when the seventy weeks are accomplished, the sin offering will be done away with.
- When Christ offered his body once as a sacrifice for sin, there is no more offering for sin.
- Hebrews 10:18 teaches that when sins are finally completely forgiven, there is no more offering. This is what Christ accomplished.

INIQUITY WILL BE COVERED

- “Atonement” – the center of the Jewish life was Yom Kippur – the day of atonement. On this day, the sacrifice was offered, and the blood of the sacrifice was sprinkled on the seat of the Ark.
- God would dwell with his people, but only if iniquity was “covered” – (atoned for) by the blood.
- The promise is not just for the symbol, but for the reality – which Christ would accomplish.
- He ascended and presented his blood to God, covering sins forever.

EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS WILL BE BROUGHT IN

- The sacrifices of the temple, the putting away of sin, and the return to the land would accomplish nothing, if righteousness were as fickle as it was in the best of times.
- Everlasting righteousness must be imputed to the people of God.
- Therefore it must be a righteousness that is not our own (alien righteousness)
- 490 years – seventy sevens – and shame and exile will be taken away.
- The root of the problem will be addressed by Messiah the Prince

VISION WILL BE SEALED

- Hebrews 1:1. Jesus is the final word.
- There is no more need for prophets, for visions, for dreams – it will be “sealed”, that is, unchanging and permanent. When the writing is done, it is sealed.
- The writing will be done. The vision is sealed.

THE MOST HOLY ANOINTED

- Anointing – filled with the Spirit of God.
- “The most holy” is translated everywhere else as “The Holy of Holies”.
- It refers not to a person, but to a place.
- When Moses finished consecrating the tabernacle, the glory of the Lord filled it.
- When Solomon finished the dedication, the glory of the Lord filled it.
- But when Zerubbabel finished the second temple, there was no “glory”
- That would not come until Christ ascended, offered the blood, and the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Church (Acts 2)

SEVENTY WEEKS

- Seventy weeks are “determined”.
- What is coming is not out of God’s control, nor his care for his people.
- What is coming is for the purpose of dealing with the heart of the problem: sin and rebellion.
- But redemption is coming.

VERSE 25

- Daniel is to understand this:
- The seventy weeks will be divided into three parts:

First – one week.
The rebuilding of
the second temple.

Second – sixty two
weeks. A long
period of trial and
preparation until
Christ comes

Third – the time of
Messiah

VERSE 26 AND 27 – MESSIAH AND THE DESTROYER

- The coming of Messiah and the destruction of the temple
- Messiah will be “cut off”. He will be the foreskin of the world.
- He is the one “taken outside the camp”.
- But it won’t be for himself.
- After he establishes what was promised in verse 24, the symbols will be taken away.
- Sacrifice and offerings will be taken away “in the midst” – that is, 3 1/2 years

VERSE 26 AND 27 – MESSIAH AND THE DESTROYER

- The destroyer, on the other hand, will tear down the city
- He will destroy the temple.
- And he will consume and destroy like a flood
- But there is a predetermined end to his cruelty
- Even he will only serve the purposes of God.

THE MYSTERIOUS NUMBERS

- All these numbers are multiples of seven.
- Genesis 2 – God rested the seventh day and hallowed it.
- The seventh day symbolized God's rest, which man was created to eventually enter.
- But man failed. Eden was blocked by a sword. Death must occur.
- But God promised that he would eventually bring man back into fellowship.
- Thus, the sevens – the symbolic number pointed to the consummation of all things
- The destruction of the curse and the renewal of the blessing.

THE SEVENS

All that the Sabbath pointed to was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

There is now a rest for the people of God.

From Jericho to Revelation, the number 7 is the consummation – the entering into rest and the destruction of all wickedness

Seven trumpets, seven bowls, seven seals, seven times and then:

We enter into God's rest.

But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*. (Mic. 4:4)

