



Seventy Weeks – a Reprise

Daniel 9:24-27

What, we're doing this again?

- My immersion in the study...
- My assumptions in the preparation...
- My lack of clarity in the sermon...

Helpful and fruitful discussions

- Pastor Greg who talked with me first...
- Pastor Devon and the office staff who gave suggestions...
- Flocks who asked helpful questions and gave good counsel...

So:

- For golfers, a mulligan
- For others, a do-over

Introduction

- Hard texts...
 - Sometimes the Bible is hard – 2 Peter 3:11-18
 - Context of eschatology...
 - Paul wrote hard stuff...
 - People misunderstood it...
 - People misused it and self-destructed over it...
 - We need patience in study over time to get it...
- Hard words...
 - Often times needed as short hand for hard ideas.
 - Always need defining to be useful.
- Hard work...
 - On the part of the preacher...
 - On the part of the listener...

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Introduction

Hard texts...

- Sometimes the Bible is hard – 2 Peter 3:11-18

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

¹⁴ Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace. ¹⁵ And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, ¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. ¹⁷ You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. ¹⁸ But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

- Peter is writing in the context of eschatology...
- Paul wrote hard stuff. It was hard to understand and probably, at times, hard to take...
- People misunderstood it
- People misused it and self-destructed over it...
- We need patience in study over time to get it...

Hard words...

- Often times needed as short hand for hard ideas. These terms can be useful and helpful in framing our
- Always need defining to be useful.

Hard work...

- On the part of the preacher...
- On the part of the listener...

Introduction

- Helping grapple with difficult ideas...
 - Eschatology
 - Doctrines of the last days, from the resurrection to the 2nd coming
 - Futurism
 - Idea that **some** of what is predicted in Daniel 9 is still future and has not yet happened.
 - Preterism
 - Teaching that **all** of what is predicted in Daniel has already happened and was fulfilled by 70 AD.

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Introduction

Helping grapple with difficult ideas...

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Introduction

- Helping grapple with difficult ideas...
- Being honest with the text...
- Building a timeline or schema...
- Having a sense of proportion...
 - May not understand everything...
 - Should understand something...
 - Let truth grow over time...

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Introduction

(Helping grapple with difficult ideas...)

Being honest with the text...

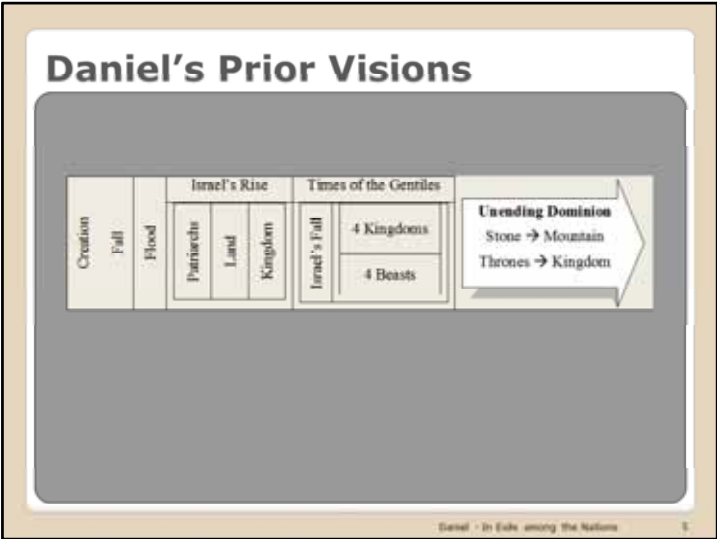
- What does the text in front of us actually say?
- Is it understandable in its own context? How much do we need other Scriptures to help?

Building a timeline or schema...

- Helpful but the main aim or goal of the study...
- Cannot build with total confidence and absolute precision...

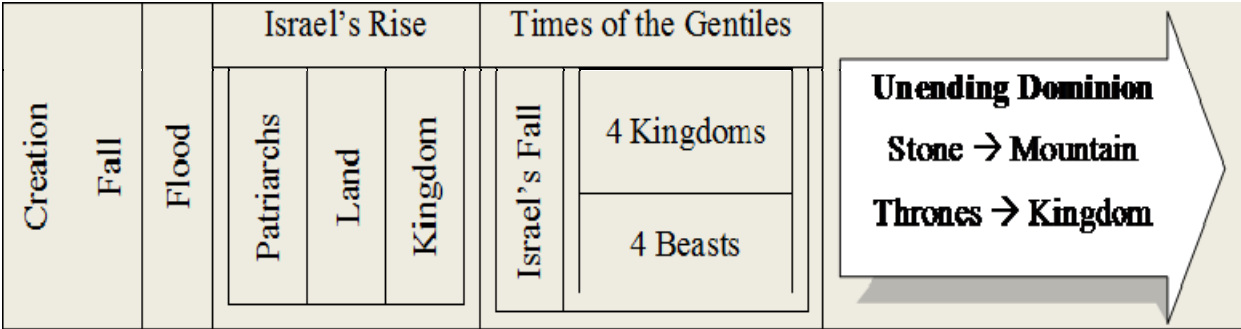
Having a sense of proportion...

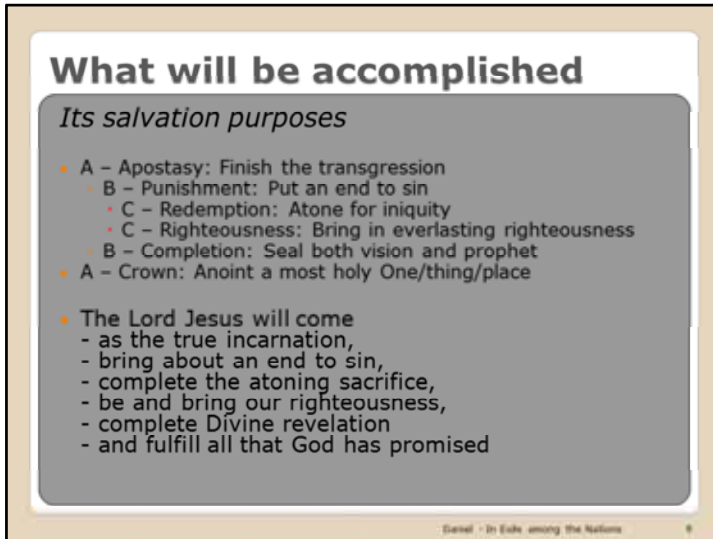
- May not understand everything...
- Should understand something...
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Daniel's Prior Visions

Unfolding of the Times of the Gentiles.





First, I want to remind you of what **God will accomplish** during this period of time.

Its salvation purposes

A – Apostasy: Finish the transgression

B – Punishment: Put an end to sin

C – Redemption: Atone for iniquity

C – Righteousness: Bring in everlasting righteousness

B – Completion: Seal both vision and prophet

A – Crown: Anoint a most holy One/thing/place

The Lord Jesus will come

- as the true incarnation,
- bring about an end to sin,
- complete the atoning sacrifice,
- be and bring our righteousness,
- complete Divine revelation
- and fulfill all that God has promised

How it is communicated

Its basic structure

- Seventy weeks
 - Each week represents seven years of time
 - Total seventy weeks represents 490 years
- Three sets of weeks
 - Seven weeks = 49 years
 - Sixty-two weeks = 434 years
 - One week = 7 years
- Represents a timeline in history

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Let's also note carefully how it is communicated.

Its basic structure would be familiar to Jews who thought in terms of sevens, weeks and periods of time represented this way.

Seventy weeks

- Each week represents seven years of time
- Total seventy weeks represents 490 years

Three sets of weeks

- Seven weeks = 49 years
- Sixty-two weeks = 434 years
- One week = 7 years

Represents a timeline in history



Three Horizons

First Horizon

- History
- Near Future to the Prophet
- Foreshadowing and an initial fulfillment in near history
- The type of the kingdom

Second Horizon

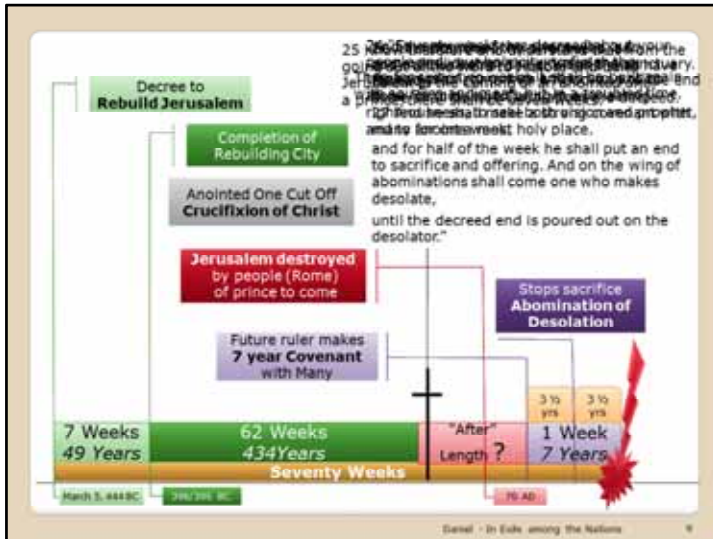
- Incarnation
- First Coming of Christ
- From His birth to His ascension
- The beginning, “inauguration” of the kingdom

Third Horizon

- Last Days
- Second Coming of Christ
- From the resurrection to His triumph and coronation
- The fulfillment, “consummation” of the kingdom

Seventy Weeks of Daniel 9:24-27

- Three horizons
- Final triumph not overtly in the text



A couple of things to explain first:

- Each of the weeks represents 7 years. So the timeline will show both the language of the text and the number of years represented.
- In Daniel, we only have the time given in years so there will be some imprecision that relates to a 360 day year, leap years (in their case, leap weeks) and exactly when in the year it is calculated.
- I will give more explanation on a second slide that focuses on the portion that relates to us.

24 "Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.

- Seventy Weeks is the basic timeline that is in view. This is 490 years.

25 Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks.

- Begins with the decree to rebuild Jerusalem
- This is the decree by Artaxerxes referred to in Nehemiah 2:1-8
- The reference to the prince probably is referring to the appointing of the ruler of Jerusalem at the completion of the rebuilding of the city

Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.

- Starting with the completion of the rebuilding of the city, 434 years pass during which there is a lot of trouble and difficulty

26 And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing.

- This event is the crucifixion of Christ

And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.

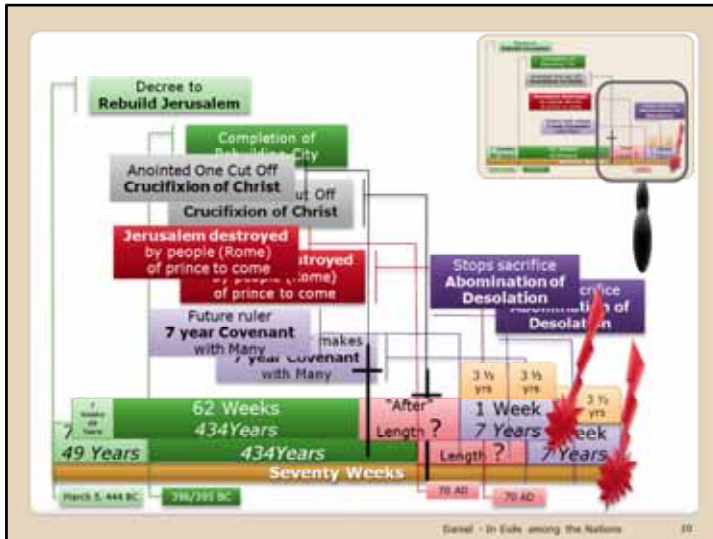
- This next event is the destruction of the city and temple by the Romans in 70 AD.

27 And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week,

- This last week is marked by the ruler who is to come making or confirming a covenant for 7 years and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate,

• The language here is very difficult and led to much debate.
 • In the Greek translation of the OT and in the NT it is called the *abomination of desolation* until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator."

- This person is then destroyed as God has ordained in His decrees.



Let's focus in on the latter portion of this prophecy:

And after the sixty-two weeks,

- Here is a very important word: "after." The word may allow for a period of time between the event that seems to mark it and the event that follows it.

an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing.

- This event is the crucifixion of Christ
- It evokes the language of Isaiah 53

And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.

- This next event is the destruction of the city and temple by the Romans in 70 AD.
- The prince who is to come will be a Roman, either by birth, nationality or by culture.
- This coming prince is not Titus the Roman general. It is fairly obvious that the people (Romans) destroy the city but there will be a ruler coming later who will be referred to later in the text.

And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week,

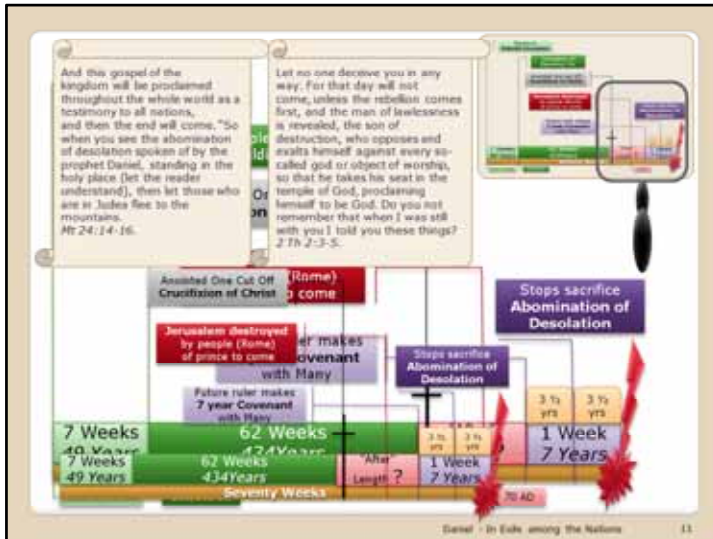
- The "he" here is the "prince who is to come". I do not believe that it can be Christ.
- This last week is marked by the ruler who is to come either making or confirming a covenant for 7 years
- This period of time may yet be future. I think we are living in the period between the 69th and the 70th weeks marked by the word "after".

The terrible event in the middle of the 70th week

- This is the famous phrase referred to by Jesus as the "abomination of desolation"
- This is some terrible, public, easily marked event that will begin a terrible time called by Jesus, the Tribulation.

The ultimate destruction of this ruler

- This person is then destroyed as God has ordained in His decrees.



So, here is the overall picture that Daniel 9 gives us.

- We know that everything has been fulfilled up to and including the destruction of Jerusalem.
- Some believe that the 70th week has already occurred. This position is call "Preterism".
- I believe that the 70th week is still future. That is what is reflected on this timeline. We are living during the period "after" the 69th week and before the beginning of the 70th week.

<Click – Slides down large image>

<Click – Shakes magnifying glass> We are focusing on this future part of the text.

<Click – Slides up smaller image>

This is referred to by two important New Testament texts:

- Matthew 24:14-16
And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. "So when you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel, standing in the holy place (let the reader understand), then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3-5
Let no one deceive you in any way. For that day will not come, unless the rebellion comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction, who opposes and exalts himself against every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, proclaiming himself to be God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things.

So, as we move through and finish the book of Daniel and take up the New Testament texts, we will be able to fill in more detail about what we are expecting to unfold. Many of you would like for me at this point to simply tell you all these details. I am committed to simply expounding on each of the texts and let the timeline and details unfold as we go.

Reflect and Respond

- God's Word is true and reliable. What we have in this text has largely come to pass. What remains will happen just as God had shown Daniel.
- The rise and fall of cities, nations and rulers are all a part of God's plan until He brings to consummation His great kingdom.
- For the comfort and encouragement of His people, God shows us how He intends to bring about His ultimate victory.
- We are resting in God, trusting His wise providence even when everything seems to falling apart.

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