

“Therefore, Consider the Word and Understand the Vision”

Daniel 9:1-27 (vv. 24-27)

Glad You Asked

Theme: God is faithful to keep His promise and only He can fix what is broken.

Introduction:

This series of studies were prompted by questions coming up in various meetings over the last several months. Rather than keep the findings separate from the Sunday Morning Studies, I believed we could all profit from the study.

Several months back on October 10, 2021, I brought up my shift theologically as it relates to eschatology. This shift took place over years. As a consequence of that shift, I've begun to look at the various passages I often approached one way and allowed the passage to tell me what it said rather than impose my presuppositions onto the passage. As a consequence of this practice, I am looking at passages differently and Daniel 9:24-27 is one of those passages that creates a domino effect on other passages.

I titled this study, “Therefore, Consider the Word and Understand the Vision.” No one less than Gabriel gave these words and his intent was toward clarity. How in the world we could read this so poorly is beyond me? **That isn't to say I have all of it figured out**, but we appear to have made a mess of this passage. I do not believe the problem lies in what is said. The problem lies in our lack of insight and unwillingness to accept what we do not know or cannot understand.

In the Hebrew passage, the words consider and understand are the same. The translators change them for variety. The Hebrew word means “to separate mentally.”

The word [**biyn**] occurs nineteen times in Daniel and of those occurrences only two occur before chapter 8 (1:4, 17). The rest occur in chapters 8 (vv. 5, 16, 17, 23, 27), 9 (vv. 2, 22, 23), 10 (vv. 1, 11, 12, 14), 11 (vv. 30, 33, 37), and 12 (8, 10). This usage fits Daniel's focus in the book. The first section, chapters 1-6, are historical and the second section, chapters 8-12, are prophetic. God through Gabriel desires for us to understand. Again, God spoke to be understood. Any confusion concerning a passage lies with us, not God. And there are some things, we cannot know at this time. Daniel 9:24-27, however, is not one of them.

A Simple Outline: WHAT IS KNOWN

- The six infinitives (v. 24). **A Word of Hope.**
- The word to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (v. 25). **A Word of Assurance.**
- The re-destruction of the city and the Sanctuary and the events of the final 70th week (vv. 26, 27). **A Word of Clarity.**

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An Expanded Outline:

I. **A Word of HOPE** (v. 24)

A. The Negative - Sin will End (v. 24a)

- 3 Statements in parallel - to finish the transgression, etc.

The word Daniel uses for sin or sins is the same. One is plural and one is singular. In Daniel, it only occurs in chapter 9 (vv. 5, 8, 11, 15, 20, 24).

Gabriel assures Daniel that his struggle with sin will come to an end. That which drove the Nation to this point will one day come to an end. Gabriel will clarify this in verses 26 and 27, but Gabriel gives this word of HOPE.

B. The Positive - Righteousness will Begin (v. 24b)

- 3 Statements in parallel - to bring in everlasting righteousness, etc.

The word "righteousness" occurs only here in Daniel. The thought of making an end of vision and prophecy could be used by the author of Hebrews referring to Jesus as the end of the revelatory word (Heb. 1:1, 2). The last statement, "To anoint the most holy [place]," the word place is implied, but not demanded. Some suggest a literal place, others would think it can be a person. The argument being people, not places, are anointed.

II. **A Word of ASSURANCE** (v. 25)

The word to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (v. 25). Gabriel assures Daniel the nation will be restored. The one anointed is Cyrus, King of Persia.

"It is I who says of Cyrus, 'He is My shepherd! And he will perform all My desire.' And he declares of Jerusalem, 'She will be built,' and of the temple, 'Your foundation will be laid'" (Isa. 44:28).

Isa. 45:1 ¶ Thus says the LORD to Cyrus His anointed, Whom I have taken by the right hand, To subdue nations before him And to loose the loins of kings; To open doors before him so that gates will not be shut:

"I have aroused him [Cyrus] in righteousness, and I will make all his ways smooth; he will build my city, and will let my exiles go free, without any payment or reward," says the Lord of hosts (Isa. 45:13).

The word for "restore" occurs three times in Daniel 9:13, 16, 25. What God has done in turning away, He will now do in turning toward.

Daniel can be assured that God will bring the nation back to the land. But, Gabriel offers a word of clarity.

III. A Word of CLARITY (vv. 26, 27)

The re-destruction of the city and the Sanctuary and the events of the final “70th” week (vv. 26, 27). This is interesting. Gabriel assures Daniel of the city and sanctuary being rebuilt, but then says they will both again be destroyed. Wow, what is that all about?

First, verses 26 and 27 are saying the same thing. Gabriel assures Daniel that there will be an end to sin, but not yet. That work is still future. Even though God will bring them back to the land, their inability to keep the Law will once more result in their destruction. Yet, they are to have hope. Why, because God is faithful to fulfill all of His promises. And those promises are stated in verse 24.

What are some areas of confusion?

IV. SOME AREAS OF ‘CONFUSION’

A. NUMBERS IN THE BIBLE

1. Although, all positions can assign specific events in order to create a “literal” 70 or 49 or 69 or 1-year starting point and ending point, is that the intent? I do not believe so.

Everyone assigns different dates in order to create their calendar chronology.

2. Or, are the numbers 7 and 49 or 490 **theologically symbolic** with reference to the **YEAR OF JUBILEE** and a **Perfect or Complete Cycle** of God’s Dealings?

Prior to the giving of the Law, we have this symbolic chronology of 490 repeating itself with each ending in some kind of blessing.

- From Abraham to the Law, 500 years.
- From the Law to King David, 500 years.
- From King David to the Nation’s restoration, 500 years.
- From the Nation’s restoration to Jesus, 500 years.

My thoughts – $7 \times 70 = 490$. This formula speaks of an undetermined time period. It was not meant to be an exact number. It is using symbolism to make its point. **No amount of time passing is going to fix Israel’s heart problem.** Only the coming of the Messiah and the cutting of a **NEW COVENANT** can do this.

- Matthew 1:1-17 [three sets of 14 generations leaving them in Babylon]; 18:22 [70x7].

I believe everything the Old Testament pictures, promises, prophecies, and patterns is FULLED IN JESUS. Jesus is the final and ultimate MEDIATOR, JUDGE, PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING. He is the culmination of all 50 Year JUBILEE cycles where all debt is cancelled and all freedom is restored. It is no accident that JESUS begins His ministry at the beginning of the YEAR OF JUBILEE in Luke 4:18. I do not believe there is a dangling 70th week waiting to be fulfilled.

B. "An Anointed One" MESSIAH?

The Hebrew word "anointed" occurs 39 times in Hebrew Scripture. It speaks of an anointing for leadership; priesthood. Our Christian Bibles translate it "anointed" 37 times. But in Daniel it is translated "the Messiah" to fit the narrative. "The" not in Hebrew; Capital "M" not in Hebrew. The KJV and the NASB and the NIV mistranslate the idea, whereas the ESV works to get it right.

- Who is an anointed one in v. 25?
- Who is an anointed one in v. 26?
- And who are the people of the prince in v. 26?
- And who is the "he" in verse 27?

The answer to these questions are found in assigning names either in 2nd century BCE with the Maccabean or 1st century AD with Rome.

- The siege of Jerusalem (63 BC) occurred **during Pompey the Great's campaigns in the East**, shortly after his successful conclusion of the Third Mithridatic War.
- The Jews' Great Revolt against Rome in 66 C.E. led to one of the greatest catastrophes in Jewish life and, in retrospect, might well have been a terrible mistake.

"The settlement at Qumran was destroyed during the Jewish War against Rome in 68 CE, and it was never resettled."¹

- Siege of Jerusalem, (70 ce), **Roman military blockade of Jerusalem during the First Jewish Revolt**. The fall of the city marked the effective conclusion of a four-year campaign against the Jewish insurgency in Judaea. The Romans destroyed much of the city, including the Second Temple.

I believe Jesus saw ANTIOCHUS EPIPHANES IV as a fulfillment of Daniel 9:24-27 and He foresaw what was going to happen in 63AD (Matt. 24:15) as well as what would happen just prior to His 2nd Coming. This leads us to a biblical pattern of repetition.

I do not believe Jesus saw Himself as the fulfillment of Daniel 9:24-27.

C. REPEATING PATTERN

1. 2nd Temple Judaism - Antiochus Epiphanes IV (2nd cent. BCE).

- How they answer the 6 Infnitives, I'm not sure.

2. 1st century CE - Rome

V. In Conclusion [PERHAPS]

- I believe its first and initial fulfillment has ended. It was a word to those Jews at that time. It appears clear, there is a repeating pattern picked up by Jesus and projected on to the Temple's destruction in 70AD and by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:7, 8. John also speaks of this when referring to many anti-Christ's (1 John 2:18; 4:3).
- If you believe the 70th week has been fulfilled, then it changes the way you read Matthew 24 and 25 and the Book of Revelation.
- I believe Jesus at His 1st Coming **initiates** the death of sin [the first 3 infinitives] and the reign of righteousness [the last 3 infinitives]. Jesus at His 2nd Coming **completes** or finalizes the six infinitives.
- I believe Daniel 9:24-27 could be providing us a **Repeating Pattern** of what the end might look like until its fullest and final fulfillment in the 2nd coming of our Lord Jesus. But at that time, it is not dealing with the nation but the nations. We will start unpacking this with our study of Revelation.
- I believe because Daniel 9:26, 27 speak of the people's inability to save themselves and leaves "brokenness and rebellion" in their hearts, Matthew's Genealogy ends with the Nation still in Babylon (1:17). And I believe this is no accident or coincidence.
- I believe everything the Old Testament pictures, promises, prophecies, and patterns is FULLED IN JESUS. Jesus is the final and ultimate MEDIATOR, JUDGE, PROPHET, PRIEST, AND KING. He is the culmination of all 50 Year JUBILEE cycles where all debt is cancelled and all freedom is restored. It is no accident that JESUS begins His ministry at the beginning of the YEAR OF JUBILEE in Luke 4:18.

VI. NOW WHAT?

- God was faithful to fulfill His Word to Daniel and His People.
- God is and will be faithful to fulfill His Word to you.
- Just as they looked for the removal of sin and the installment of righteousness, so do we.
- Our HOPE for both is found solely in JESUS. Jesus Christ is the one who fulfilled the promises to Israel and, in Him, to us.
- Everything in the Bible points to God's faithfulness in keeping His promises.

⁵Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.

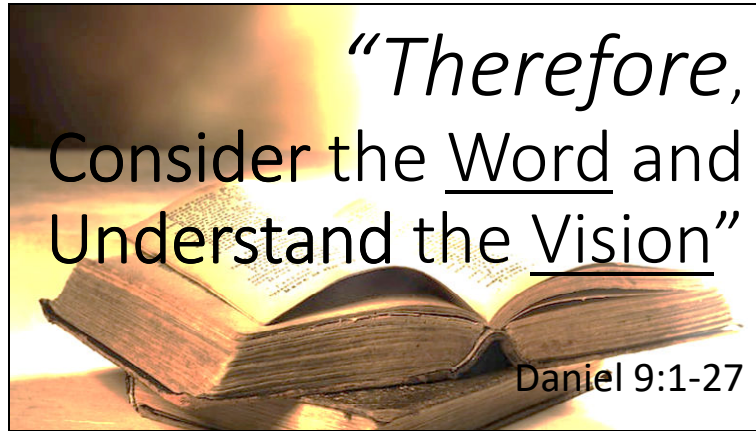
⁶In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.

⁷Be not wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.

⁸It will be healing to your flesh^[b]
and refreshment^[c] to your bones.

Let us pray.

¹ <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/qumran>



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HOPE (v. 24)

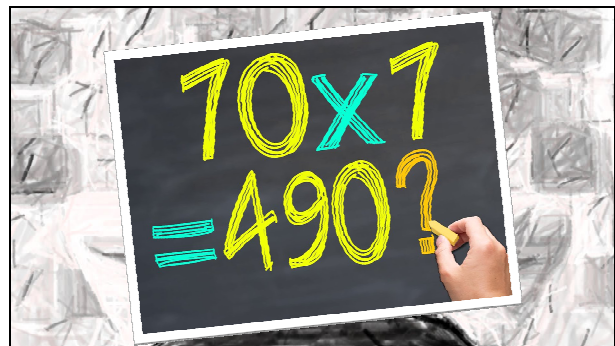
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ASSURANCE (v. 25)

- The word to restore and rebuild Jerusalem (v. 25)

CLARITY (vv. 26, 27)

- The re-destruction of the city and the Sanctuary and the events of the final “70th” week (vv. 26, 27).



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 - Matthew 1:1-17; 18:22 [also note Luke 4:18]

MESSIAH

- Who is an anointed one in vv. 25, 26?
- And who are the people of the prince in v. 26?
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REPEATING PATTERN

- 2nd Temple Judaism - Antiochus Epiphanes IV (2nd cent. BCE).
- 1st cent. CE - Rome

PERHAPS

- Jesus at His 1st Coming **initiates** the death of sin [the first 3 infinitives] and the reign of righteousness [the last 3 infinitives].
- Jesus at His 2nd Coming **completes** or finalizes the six infinitives.

PERHAPS

- A **Repeating Pattern** of certain elements at the 2nd coming of our Lord Jesus.

JESUS

- Daniel 9:26, 27 speak of the people’s inability to save themselves and leaves “Brokenness and rebellion” in their hearts, Matthew’s Genealogy ends with the Nation still in Babylon (1:17).

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- Everything the OT pictures, promises, prophecies, and patterns is **FULLED IN JESUS**.

JESUS

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