

Daniel – Chapter 9

- *God's response to prayer*

By far the major part of the text of this chapter is about prayer and repentance, as a very practical example of the role of prayer for us today in our relationship to God. Daniel was called highly beloved and I believe that his personal regular conversations with God had much to do with him being given that relational title.

- *Amazing prophecy*

The Bible, God's book is the only writing in existence that accurately and in incredible detail chronicles history before it happens. It bears a single message though penned by 40 writers over many centuries, because it has one Author, the God of eternity Himself. In this chapter we are going to look at scripture that details history written centuries before it took place and some that is yet future to us.

- *Unbelieving scholars*

Because this prophecy is so incredibly detailed and some of it was fulfilled so exactly, unbelieving, liberal "scholars" have come up with all sorts of theories that date parts of the book of Daniel as having been written later and by other writers. However, all such foolishness can be laid to rest by the fact that the Old Testament was translated into Greek almost three centuries before Jesus, the Lord came to dwell on Earth for a short time. This translation is known as the Septuagint done by 70 scholars over a period of 15 years. This was done under Alexander because most Jews living throughout the empire spoke Greek and not Hebrew. All quotes of scripture in the New Testament are taken from this translation.

- *Key to understanding end time prophecy*

Before get into chapter 9 we need to understand that Jesus refers to the book of Daniel as having been written by Daniel and that there is one event that is the key to marking the beginning of the time of the end. Failure to understand the prophecy in this chapter will make many other prophecies in scripture problematic riddles. As we will see, knowing what will happen is secondary to understanding who these prophecies are about.

- *Private confidential briefing*

In Matt 24-25, Mark 13-4, and Luke 21-22 Jesus gave his disciples an important, rather lengthy response to their (and by extension ours) burning question about His return. We will use the narrative as related by Matthew.

Matthew 24:1 Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings.

Matthew 24:2 "Do you see all these things?" he asked. "I tell you the truth, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down."

Matthew 24:3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

Matthew 24:4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

Matthew 24:5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Christ, ' and will deceive many.

Matthew 24:6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

Matthew 24:7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

Matthew 24:8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Matthew 24:9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me.

Matthew 24:10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other,

Matthew 24:11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people.

Matthew 24:12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

Matthew 24:13 but he who stands firm to the end will be saved

Matthew 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

- *Many events, but not yet the end*

In the first 14 verses Jesus says that many events will characterize the time between the time he is speaking to His followers and the end. In verses 6 and 14 He specifically says that the end is yet to come. We certainly see the events given in 1-14 taking place today to a degree they never have in history, yet they have characterized the entire time from when He spoke this until today.

- *The event that begins the end*

Jesus tells the disciples that there is a specific event that Daniel predicted would happen and that it pertains to Jewish believers present at that time and place. Until this specific event occurs, the end, and with it the return of Jesus will not happen. That is why, if we wish to understand end time prophecy, we must carefully study the key found in Daniel 9.

Matthew 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand--

Notice the last phrase here, we the reader must understand this as the key. Jesus knew this would be written down and so he mentions us as the readers of this important verse even though the actions commanded and necessitated by this event applies to the Jews in Israel yet future when Jesus said these things. Jesus tells us, as readers of scripture to pay attention to what Daniel writes and later holds His fellow Jews accountable for understanding Daniel. We saw in chapter 8 that such an abominable desecration of the temple had already taken place at the hand of Antiochus Epiphanes and another more terrifying was the signal for the beginning of the end.

Matthew 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Matthew 24:17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.

Matthew 24:18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.

Matthew 24:19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers!

Matthew 24:20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath.

Matthew 24:21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now--and never to be equaled again.

Matthew 24:22 If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened.

- *The seventy years are up*

The time of this writing is 538BC and Daniel was studying his Bible.

Daniel 9:1 In the first year of Darius son of Xerxes (a Mede by descent), who was made ruler over the Babylonian kingdom--

Daniel 9:2 in the first year of his reign, I, Daniel, understood from the Scriptures, according to the word of the LORD given to Jeremiah the prophet, that the desolation of Jerusalem would last seventy years.

- *The word of the Lord*

The Hebrew uses the YHWH (Jehovah) name of God here as one of the seven times Daniel uses it in this chapter.

- *70 Years of Captivity*

Jeremiah predicted the Babylonian captivity and its duration. Daniel, as a teenager, was deported as a captive and had lived in Babylon 70 years by this time.

Jeremiah 25:11 This whole country will become a desolate wasteland, and these nations will serve the king of Babylon seventy years.

Jeremiah 25:12 "But when the seventy years are fulfilled, I will punish the king of Babylon and his nation, the land of the Babylonians, for their guilt," declares the LORD, "and will make it desolate forever.

- *Taken literally -- 70 years*

Daniel here, as all other people in scriptures referencing same takes it literally. I cannot think of a single instance where scripture was not taken literally by any person mentioned in the Bible. Jesus is of course our best example of this. Example:

Matthew 12:40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Jesus says that a historical Jonah was literally in the belly of a real fish and here the aged Daniel realizes that it has been 70 years since he came to Babylon as a captive. The lesson for us is that we too must take scriptures literally unless it clearly doesn't make sense to do so.

- *Prayer the result reading the Word*

Daniel's response to prophecy was to pray for its fulfillment even though he knew that's God's word was sure and that it would certainly come to pass. This prayer comprises about two-thirds of the text of this chapter.

Daniel 9:3 So I turned to the Lord God and pleaded with him in prayer and petition, in fasting, and in sackcloth and ashes.

That is also why we pray "Come Lord Jesus yes come" even though His coming is a sure thing.

Revelation 22:17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.

It seems strange that we are admonished to pray for the inevitable, but in the Lord's prayer we are admonished to pray: "Thy kingdom come". This teaches us what prayer is really about: **It is God's way of enlisting us and becoming partakers in what He is doing.** Daniel never saw His beloved homeland again

- *Daniel's understanding -- who God is*

We see that Daniel understood God to be an awesome God, yet of love and one who keeps His promises and does exactly what He has said He will do and that his commands are not options but He expects obedience.

Daniel 9:4 I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed: "O Lord, the great and awesome God, who keeps his covenant of love with all who love him and obey his commands,

• *Daniel's understanding who he is before God*

We learned in our study of the first chapter the reason why Israel was banished for exactly 70 years. (2 Chron 36:20) Even though nothing negative is ever written of him and Daniel's enemies could find no fault in him (Dan 6:4) and was called greatly beloved three times (Dan 9:23, 10:11, 10:19) he still includes himself with the sinners in need of repentance. Where does that leave the rest of us?

Daniel 9:5 *we have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and have rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws.*

Daniel 9:6 *We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.*

• *Increasing emotion wells up in Daniel*

The aged Daniel, in his late eighties, goes back in memory to his growing up years and early youth in Jerusalem and the history and law he was taught and the early knowledge God he had come to love. Repeatedly he acknowledges that God is righteous (v7, v14) and his nation is rightly deserving of what has happened to them these 70 years.

Daniel 9:6 *We have not listened to your servants the prophets, who spoke in your name to our kings, our princes and our fathers, and to all the people of the land.*

Daniel 9:7 *"Lord, you are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame--the men of Judah and people of Jerusalem and all Israel, both near and far, in all the countries where you have scattered us because of our unfaithfulness to you.*

Daniel 9:8 *O LORD, we and our kings, our princes and our fathers are covered with shame because we have sinned against you.*

Daniel 9:9 *The Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him;*

Daniel 9:10 *we have not obeyed the LORD our God or kept the laws he gave us through his servants the prophets.*

Daniel 9:11 *All Israel has transgressed your law and turned away, refusing to obey you. "Therefore the curses and sworn judgments written in the Law of Moses, the servant of God, have been poured out on us, because we have sinned against you.*

Daniel 9:12 *You have fulfilled the words spoken against us and against our rulers by bringing upon us great disaster. Under the whole heaven nothing has ever been done like what has been done to Jerusalem.*

Daniel 9:13 *Just as it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us, yet we have not sought the favor of the LORD our God by turning from our sins and giving attention to your truth.*

Daniel 9:14 *The LORD did not hesitate to bring the disaster upon us, for the LORD our God is righteous in everything he does; yet we have not obeyed him.*

Daniel 9:15 *"Now, O Lord our God, who brought your people out of Egypt with a mighty hand and who made for yourself a name that endures to this day, we have sinned, we have done wrong.*

• *In view of our sin and your mercy*

It is easy to imagine, that as his prayer progressed, there were increasing tears streaming down his face as his voice got louder and more urgent before he finally petitions God. He declares to God that he is not coming on the basis of merit, but on the basis of God's mercy and the fact that Jerusalem and the people of Israel bear the name of YHWH (Jehovah)

Daniel 9:16 O Lord, in keeping with all your righteous acts, turn away your anger and your wrath from Jerusalem, your city, your holy hill. Our sins and the iniquities of our fathers have made Jerusalem and your people an object of scorn to all those around us.

Daniel 9:17 "Now, our God, hear the prayers and petitions of your servant. For your sake, O Lord, look with favor on your desolate sanctuary.

Daniel 9:18 Give ear, O God, and hear; open your eyes and see the desolation of the city that bears your Name. We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy.

Daniel 9:19 O Lord, listen! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, hear and act! For your sake, O my God, do not delay, because your city and your people bear your Name."

- *Repeat petition for Jerusalem*

The plight of Jerusalem and its temple is brought to God's attention repeatedly (v7, 12, 16, 17, 18,19) and this petition is answered in a scope far greater than what Daniel had in mind at the time.

- *Answer given as he speaks*

Notice again includes himself in the confession of sin and even so God hears and gives Daniel an unexpected answer. First off Daniel is told that the answer was already on its way when he began to pray and that he is highly regarded in the halls of heaven.

Daniel 9:20 While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill--

- *Gabriel appears again*

Gabriel is one of three named angels in the Bible. Michael appears as a warrior and Lucifer as the rebellious fallen one now called Satan. Whenever Gabriel appears, it is on a message concerning the Messiah, in this chapter his first and second coming.

Daniel 9:21 while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.

- *Evening sacrifice*

There was no sacrifice, and Daniel was 500 miles away from Jerusalem and the temple which lay in ruin. Daniel was accustomed to pray for he prayed three times each day (Dan 6:10) facing Jerusalem. For Daniel it was the time for the evening oblation, even though for 70 years there had not been any.

- *Daniel is told the purpose of Gabriel's visit*

Gabriel says to Daniel "I have come to tell you what will happen to Jerusalem and Israel." Daniel's scope was concerned with the present desolation of the holy city and its temple, and its restoration to what had been when he was a young man. God's concern was also Daniel's but on a scale far greater in importance to the whole world and distant in the time when all the promises of the Kingdom of God that Daniel knew from scripture would come.

Daniel 9:22 He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding.

- *At the start of your prayer*

Right at the beginning of Daniel's prayer, Gabriel was given the order from God to go see Daniel and deliver a message Him. No one knows how long it takes an angel to travel from the throne room of God to our planet, but during the time Daniel got from verse 4 to verse 22 Gabriel had made it there. It seems that angels can really move!

Daniel 9:23 As soon as you began to pray, an answer was given, which I have come to tell you, for you are highly esteemed. Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision:

- *Highly beloved*

Those who are dear enough to God to be given special relational titles, such as "beloved" in Daniel and the apostle John's case and "friend" such as Abraham are given great insight into the doings of God. The Lord Jesus also calls His disciples His friends. In each case where this special relationship is mentioned, it is always accompanied by revelation from God what He is going to do.

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," and he was called God's friend.

John 15:14 You are my friends if you do what I command.

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Messiah Comes to complete Israel's and world history - His Story

- *Seventy sevens*

If I say that I immigrated to the United States 6 decades ago, you'd know I have lived in the USA 60 years. Similarly, the Hebrew word translated "sevens" shabuwa` is a period of seven units of time, days, weeks or years; in this case years. The total time frame as given in v24 is applicable to the last four verses of this chapter is computes to $70 \times 7 = 490$ years, but **not** necessarily contiguous.

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

- *Who is this time period for*

The decreed time is applicable to Israel (your people) and the city of Jerusalem, (your holy city) and not the Gentiles nor the church. The focus of this passage is clearly on Israel and Jerusalem and it is extremely important to understand. Failure to clearly delineate which group of people a scripture and especially prophecy applies to will leave us with a confused understanding.

- *What will be done during this time*

1. to finish transgression
2. to put an end to sin
3. to atone for wickedness
4. to bring in everlasting righteousness
5. to seal up vision and prophecy
6. to anoint the most holy

Have all of these been fulfilled? The third on the list it might argued was fulfilled at the cross, but as for the rest, those are yet to come. We tend to think linearly in time, but God most often does not and so this list is not necessarily in chronological order. This a key fact to keep in mind when studying this and other prophecy.

- *Doing the arithmetic*

62 plus 7 gives 69 sevens which is 483 years. This is an important time-span which begins and ends with two distinct events. The concept of the sabbatical year is the basis for assigning the dimension of years to the 'sevens' given here.

- *Messiah the prince*

The word Messiah means anointed one and he is the ruler. Here the word -->

nagiyd {naw-gheed'} or nagid {naw-gheed'}

from 05046; TWOT - 1289b; n m

AV - ruler 20, prince 9, captain 6, leader 4, governor 3, nobles 1, excellent things 1; 44

1) leader, ruler, captain, prince

1a) ruler, prince

1b) prince-overseer

1c) ruler (in other capacities)

1d) princely things

is used. So what we are told is that Messiah will come as ruler, Excellency or king after the specified time.

Daniel 9:25 "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

- *How long was each year?*

To determine the time span of this prophecy we must delve a little into time measurement now and in ancient times. All ancient calendars were based on a 360-day calendar: Assyrians, Chaldeans, Egyptians, Hebrews, Persians, Greeks, Phoenicians, Chinese, Mayans, Hindus, Etruscans, Teutons, and others counted 360 days each year..

Each year was usually divided into twelve 30-day months. In ancient Chaldea, their calendar was based on a 360-day year and it is from this Babylonian tradition that we get the 360 degrees in a circle, 60 minutes to an hour, 60 seconds in each minute.

- *The shadow goes back 10 degrees*

Scripture records that God did adjust the motion of the earth with the result that the shadow on the sundial went backwards and it happened at the time after which all man's calendars needed adjusting.

2 Kings 20:10 "It is a simple matter for the shadow to go forward ten steps," said Hezekiah. "Rather, have it go back ten steps."

2 Kings 20:11 Then the prophet Isaiah called upon the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.

- *All calendars change suddenly*

In 701 BC., all calendars appear to have been reorganized. Numa Pompilius, the second King of Rome, reorganized the original calendar of 360 days per year, by adding 5 days per year. King Hezekiah, Numa's contemporary, reorganized his Jewish calendar by adding a month each Jewish leap year of which there are 7 every 19 years.

- *Why did the calendar change?*

Modern computer studies of orbital mechanics by NASA, Harvard and others, determined that some time in the past there was orbital resonance between the orbit of earth which went around the sun once in 360 days and the planet Mars which orbited the sun once in 720 days. These orbits caused the two worlds to pass quite close to each other every 54 years and when these close encounters occurred, there is an energy

transfer that alters both orbits. The fact that many ancient cultures had great fear and awe of Mars lends some credence to this theory.

- *Biblical 360 day years*

For the purposes of studying time intervals it is important for us to understand that the Bible puts 360 days as a year. This true both in the old testament accounting of the flood and again in the book of Revelation.

- *A mathematical prophecy*

In v25 we are told of time period with a beginning, when a certain decree is issued and an end when "Meshiach Nagid" Messiah the Regent appears. The word "Nagid" is used of Saul for instance. We are also given the amount of time that is to elapse between these two events. Thus, if we can determine when the decree to rebuild Jerusalem was issued, we can determine when Messiah the Regent is to appear.

- *A precise number of days*

We apply the term decade to a period of ten years. Logically then a period of seven years might be called a septade. According to v25 there will be 7septades +62septades =69septades x 7 = 483 years of 360 days each which comes to 173880 days total. There is much guesswork why the time is listed in two slices of 7 and 62, but the total time is certain.

- *Determining the start date of the count*

Next we must try to figure out the date from which to begin counting days. There were 4 decrees issued concerning the return of the Jews to their homeland. Three of them are chronicled in the book of Ezra and concern the re-building of the temple.

- *A frustrated nation*

However, they were not given the authority to be independent and were not allowed to rebuild the fortifications and their military at this time. This gave rise to physical and spiritual frustration and no real progress toward the goal of restoring the city and nation to its former status.

- *Enter Nehemiah*

Notice a detail in v25 it mentions not the temple, but the city itself with its streets and the wall are to be rebuilt. Nehemiah succeeds in getting the permission that allows the re-building of the city, and especially the means of defense thereof. According to archeological records, This permission was given by Artaxerxes Longimanus (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Artaxerxes_I_of_Persia) on March 14 in 445BC (The Coming Prince by Robert Anderson)

- *Messiah as King*

Throughout the ministry of Jesus there were occasions when they wanted Him to be their king, but he did not allow it.

John 6:15 Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.

- *Fulfilled Prophecy*

There was a specific day however on which he not only permitted the people to hail Him as king, but made specific arrangements for it. We call that occasion "*The Triumphal Entry*" and celebrate it as Palm Sunday and the account thereof is important enough to be recorded in all four Gospels. (*Matt 21:1-9; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-39; John 12:12-16*) This event was specifically predicted:

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

Centuries before, Zechariah predicted that Messiah would present Himself as King by riding a donkey into Jerusalem.

- *Deliberately arranged*

This whole scene was not a spontaneous unplanned happening, but carefully planned ahead of time.

Luke 19:29 As he approached Bethphage and Bethany at the hill called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of his disciples, saying to them, 9

Luke 19:30 "Go to the village ahead of you, and as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here.

Luke 19:31 If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it.'"

Luke 19:32 Those who were sent ahead went and found it just as he had told them.

Luke 19:33 As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

Luke 19:34 They replied, "The Lord needs it."

Luke 19:35 They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it.

Luke 19:36 As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road.

Luke 19:37 When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen:

- *Jesus allows the Truth to be proclaimed*

Because He is the King of Glory, He allows the crowd to proclaim it and His enemies well understood the message that He was claiming to be Messiah the King.

Luke 19:38 "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Luke 19:39 Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, rebuke your disciples!"

Luke 19:40 "I tell you," he replied, "if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."

- *Singing scripture*

Psalms 118:26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD. From the house of the LORD we bless you.

Psalms 118:27 The LORD is God, and he has made his light shine upon us. With boughs in hand, join in the festal procession up to the horns of the altar.

Psalms 118:28 You are my God, and I will give you thanks; you are my God, and I will exalt you.

Psalms 118:29 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

The Pharisees tried get the Lord order His followers to shut up. The crowds were singing Psalm 118 and it was not lost on the religious leaders that the multitudes were proclaiming Jesus as King and Messiah.

- *Perceived as blasphemy*

To the religious leaders this action of the crowd was blasphemy because they were proclaiming this One riding the donkey not only the Messiah, but equating Him with God.

Matthew 21:15 But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

Matthew 21:16 "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise' ?"

Jesus was referring to Psalm 8:2

- *Passover in four days*

Passover, associated with the feast of Unleavened bread was one of three times when every healthy male was commanded to be in Jerusalem.(Deut 16) As a result, Jerusalem was crowded with over a million pilgrims.

- *A strange action*

Luke 19:41 As he approached Jerusalem and saw the city, he wept over it

Luke 19:42 and said, "If you, even you, had only known on this day what would bring you peace--but now it is hidden from your eyes.

Notice it says "this day". So what day was it? This day was the 10th of Nisan and four days later it would be the day of Passover, the 14th of Nisan in 32 AD. which on that year fell on April 10.

- *The exact date also predicted*

Not only does God by His prophets foretell the event, but also gives Daniel the exact date when it would happen. What an incredible confirmation that Jesus is exactly who he says He is! Jesus wept over Jerusalem because they **could** have known from Daniel's prophecy that He is their Messiah, but it was hidden, like many prophecies are, until they take place, and even then, those who witness the predicted event but don't want to believe will not.

This then was the exact day that Dan 9:25 was fulfilled with mathematical precision. Truly, the God of time and space, our Lord and Savior leaves no margin for error! Jesus is truly Messiah the King, proclaimed by the joyful disciples on the exact day Daniel said this would take place. Jesus says, that they ought to have recognized from Daniel's and other prophecy that this was their day of peace, but because they did not, Jerusalem and the temple would be destroyed.

- *Messiah to be executed*

Daniels predicts that Messiah will be executed at that time, but "not for Himself" as noted in the KJV. He would die for all humanity, the anointed sacrifice brought by God.

- *The word -cut off*

karath {kaw-rath}

1) to cut, cut off, cut down, cut off a body part, cut out, eliminate, kill, cut a covenant

Daniel 9:26 (NIV) After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

Daniel 9:26 (KJV) And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof [shall be] with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

- *Jerusalem besieged and the temple destroyed*

Daniel in this verse takes two time jumps, one of which is history to us and the other yet future to our time. Jesus gives more detail on this near event and tells us why Jerusalem was destroyed -- namely because they did not recognize Him as the Messiah come to save them.

Luke 19:43 The days will come upon you when your enemies will build an embankment against you and encircle you and hem you in on every side.

Luke 19:44 They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

- *The people of the prince*

Notice it says specifically that the people of the prince that shall come, and not the prince will destroy Jerusalem. They were of course the Romans who came in 70 AD with the command of Titus Vespasian and the 5th, 10th, 12th, and 15th Roman legions who laid siege to Jerusalem for almost two years and finally broke through. Historians tell us that over 1.5 million inhabitants of the city were starved or slaughtered. Vespasian had given orders to preserve the temple but in the battle the wooden interior overlaid with gold was set on fire and all the gold melted into the cracks between the stones. To get the gold the temple literally was thrown down so, as Jesus had said, not one stone was left on top of another.

- *Temple fell twice on the same date*

When Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the temple it was done on the 9th of AV on the Jewish calendar and so it was also when the Romans torched the temple. Would you call that a coincidence?

- *The end again -- twice*

After the prediction of the destruction of Jerusalem Daniel writes about "the end" in connection with a flood and also war and desolations and then uses the pronoun "He" in the next verse to refer to the ruler of the people in connection with the end. The term flood has in it the idea of washing away and dispersal and indeed, after this the Jews were scattered throughout the Roman empire and beyond.

- *Awe of God and His Word*

One of the reasons I have been doing these studies is to learn and share the incredible precision of the word of our great and awesome God. This is not the only such amazing prophetic detail. We believe and trust in Him but it is incredibly exciting to me to learn how He is such a God of detail and precision not only in the created world around us, but also in His powerful so carefully engineered Word.

- *Two new beginnings*

Why does the Holy Spirit give us the date when the Ark of Noah came to rest as the waters of the flood receded? Here we read of the new beginning after a severe judgment. What is the significance of this detail? (Gen8:4) I will not go into the math here, but another new beginning after the severe judgment of sin placed on the Son of God occurred on that date. It was the resurrection of Jesus on that exact same date.

- *The deity of Jesus*

This prediction of the Messiah and its exact fulfillment is one of the major witnesses that Jesus Christ is God, the promised Messiah and scripture and prophecy centers around Him and His plan. Are you glad and happy that He in his mercy has included you in this plan? You are in His plan if you belong to Him. The question is, if you are a Christian, are you living in the awareness of this plan according to the commandment of love He gave us that we should love one another.

The Time of the End

- *70 week of Daniel*

This brings us to the time of the end, where there will be a seven year period of history which Jesus tells us about and which is the subject of the major portion (chapters 6-19) of the book of Revelation.

- *Time given not specific*

From the amazingly exact fulfillment of the 69 weeks and the execution of Messiah until what Daniel calls "the end" in both v26 and 27 lies a period of time the exact length of which is not specified. The temple is to be destroyed after Messiah is cut off and 38 years later the temple is destroyed "by the people of the prince to come"

Daniel 9:27 (NIV) He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing {of the temple} he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him. "

Daniel 9:27 (KJV) And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make [it] desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

- *Interval of time*

One of the problems we as time bound creatures have, is to read scripture linearly as a series of contiguous events time wise. It is obvious from history that there was a span of at least 38 years between Jesus' death and the destruction of Jerusalem all in this one verse. From our perspective, this time has grown to about 2000 years.

Examples of time gaps

- *Time factor causes much controversy*

The idea of indeterminate and specific periods of time is found in numerous places in scripture. It is very important to the understanding of prophecy that seemingly successive prophecies in scripture, sometimes even in the same verse can be widely separated time wise. This time separation is a major factor that gives rise to so many, sometimes widely divergent interpretations of prophetic passages.

- *Who factor*

Another source of confusion is to fail to accurately note to whom a given scripture is addressed and to whom it applies. An important confusion of this kind is the failure to properly distinguish between Israel and the Church. This is a subject Paul discusses extensively in Romans 9, 10 and 11. He sums up his treatise on the subject:

Romans 11:25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part **until** the full number of the Gentiles has come in.

Romans 11:26 And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: "The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.

Notice the "hardening" of Israel is not universal in scope. There are an increasing number of Jewish believers in Yeshua the Meshiach. This "hardening" is also only to last for a limited time: Namely until a certain condition is met. This who factor could be the subject of a long detailed study, but in the context of Daniel we will study only the time factor as it applies to his writings.

- *Jesus partially quotes Isaiah*

We have in an earlier study looked at the fact that when Jesus started His ministry, he quotes the prophet Isaiah for the mandate of His own ministry. By comparing what Jesus read and what Isaiah wrote and noting the comment Jesus made about what He did read, it can be seen that at the time of His reading this, the prophecy of Isaiah was only partially fulfilled. In verse 19 of Luke 4 there is a period, marking a stop, whereas in Isaiah two more items are added: 1) the day of vengeance; and 2) comfort to all that are sorrowful. So in the prophecy of Isaiah there is a large gap of time in a single verse (62). Certainly there have been and are millions who mourn but receive no comfort, yet the promise is for comfort for **all** that mourn and the day of vengeance is yet to come.

Luke 4:16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.

Luke 4:17 The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

Luke 4:18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

Luke 4:19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him,

Luke 4:21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 13

Isaiah 61:2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort **all** who mourn,

- *The Woman and the Dragon*

This woman here, symbolizing Israel gives birth to a male child, the Lord Jesus and the dragon i.e.. the devil (Rev 12:9) wants to destroy him. A number of times Satan tried to thwart God's plan and terminate the Messianic line and derail the salvation of mankind and thereby also the triumphant return of our Lord who at that time will take final control of this planet away from Satan, who is now called the god of this world.

- *The entire span of history*

Verses 1-5 encompasses the entire time between the promise made after the fall of Man and the time when Jesus ascended back to the father after He had accomplished what had been agreed to within God before time began. Scholars, including some from the early church, have included in this time period the snatching up not only Jesus as the head, but also the miraculous sudden removal from Satan's domain of His body, the church.

Revelation 12:1 A great and wondrous sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head.

Revelation 12:2 She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth.

Revelation 12:3 Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads.

Revelation 12:4 His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that he might devour her child the moment it was born.

Revelation 12:5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter. And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

- *Numerous attempts to thwart God's plan*

The murder of Abel, the strange events in Gen 6, the Murder of the Jewish babies in Egypt, the attempts to exterminate all Jews chronicled in the book of Esther, the various attempts to kill Jesus before the cross are some of the numerous scriptural records attesting to this failed strategy. These attempts to thwart God's promises continued after Jesus ascended, by Satan's efforts to exterminate the Jewish people, such as the

pogroms and persecutions in Eastern Europe and Hitler's "final solution" to what the Nazis called "The Jewish Problem".

- *The last attempt to thwart God*

Here again in this passage there is a gap in time between v 5 and 6 as we go into fast forward on God's VCR to the last half of Daniel's 70th week, whose time is explicitly spelled out for us in terms of days. Here for the duration of the last three and a half years before the triumphant return of Jesus to Earth, Israel is supernaturally protected from the Dragon and his servants.

Revelation 12:6 The woman fled into the desert to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

The length of the section video tape labeled "Israel History", so to speak, that was fast forwarded is by our time now about 2000 years and the tape will return to "play" mode at the beginning of the 70th week.

- *Israel abandoned by God*

There are those who teach that God has abandoned Israel and now the church takes their place. They are right, he did abandon Israel and now works through the church, but only for a time. When God has accomplished through the church the part of His plan for Mankind now assigned to the church, He will continue with Israel. He will do this not because there is anything special about that particular people, but because of His love and unfailing promises to the forefathers.

Isaiah 54:7 "For a brief moment I abandoned you, but with deep compassion I will bring you back.

Isaiah 54:8 In a surge of anger I hid my face from you for a moment, but with everlasting kindness I will have compassion on you," says the LORD your Redeemer.

Isaiah 54:9 "To me this is like the days of Noah, when I swore that the waters of Noah would never again cover the earth. So now I have sworn not to be angry with you, never to rebuke you again.

Isaiah 54:10 Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet my unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor my covenant of peace be removed," says the LORD, who has compassion on you.

- *A long time period away from God*

Here the prophet foretells of an extended period of time for Israel where they will have no government of their own, no priesthood etc.; no way to truly practice their religion as they did before the temple was destroyed by the Romans.

Hosea 3:4 For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or idol.

Hosea 3:5 Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

We have seen that there can be extensive periods of time embedded in sections of scripture as small as a single sentence. Proximity in scripture is not always close or contiguous in time or in chronological order.

The ruler to come

- *Who is this "He"?*

The "He" refers back to the "prince to come" in v26. Yet "He" is to put an end to sacrifices and offerings in the middle of a seven year period of time and set up an abomination in the temple. In 70AD the temple was destroyed, but there is no record of a desecration thereof, as had occurred under Antiochus Epiphanes. Also, this "He" and this event is given as happening at the "end".

- *The people of the ruler*

As we have seen in chapter 2 and 7, the Roman empire is the last of the four world empires, destined to crumble, but not to be replaced except by the kingdom set up by the God of heaven. To the extent that the descendants of the ones who destroyed the temple in 70AD are still in existence, the ruler who will be over them must be the one referred to as this "he" and is commonly termed the "Anti-Christ". This last ruler of this present world system is given many titles in scripture. The lawless one, the man of sin, boastful blasphemer, false Messiah etc.

- *A new temple*

Since the temple was destroyed, and no sacrifices according to the laws of Moses have been performed since 70AD, it is necessary for the temple to be built again before it can be desecrated and the whole sacrificial system, as it existed in the time of Jesus must be in operation. There are efforts in Israel today to do this, but they are spearheaded by a minority, for the Israeli government is a secular one that pays scant lip service to God and the desire of build a temple gets no support from those in charge.

- *The scope of the prophecy*

The list of the 6 things given in 9:24 that will be done by the end of the 70 weeks is not yet completely fulfilled and we are NOT given a time schedule for those, other than that it will be consummated at the end of a climactic period of 7 years, the beginning date of which we do not know yet.

- *Begins with an official document*

Just as the 69 week count began with an official decree by the world government concerning Israel, (Artaxerxes Longimanus) so, according to Daniel, will this final week begin with an official document concerning Israel and be issued by this world ruler.

- *Preparations for world government*

As we listen to the news, the globalization of commerce, travel, communications, the phenomenal rise of the devilish culture and religion of Islam etc. is increasingly evident and we are clearly headed toward a global system, which in the not too distant future will also encompass political and military power. These are essential ingredients for any government, but which are presently missing in the structure of the UN.

- *Raw power*

An effective government needs to have the power to enforce its laws upon the governed, whether by their consent, such as in the USA, protected by the constitution which was formulated and written with the understanding that all governments on Earth are subject to the government of God, or not.

- *Hostile to God*

The present UN charter and the future government prophesied in Daniel and other scriptures omit all reference to God. All present governments indeed are hostile to all who have their lives governed by the eternal God who showed Daniel, and by him to us, what will happen in the final days. Therefore, the future government will be a (Islamic?) dictatorship that will succeed in forcing its will on the majority of the earth's people, but only for a short time.

- *A literal period of time*

Those who tend to symbolize times and events in scripture have to do some extensive mental gymnastics to make the many references to the last half of the 70th week of Daniel mean anything other than exactly three and a half years. Here in this chapter ,v27 it is given as the middle of the week. Earlier Daniel expresses this time span:

Daniel 7:25 He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

and again in

Daniel 12:7 The man clothed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, lifted his right hand and his left hand toward heaven, and I heard him swear by him who lives forever, saying, "It will be for a time, times and half a time. When the power of the holy people has been finally broken, all these things will be completed."

- *A matter of months*

In an effort to not let anyone take this particular time span in any other way than a literal time God gives it to us in terms of months.

Revelation 11:2 But exclude the outer court; do not measure it, because it has been given to the Gentiles. They will trample on the holy city for 42 months.

Revelation 13:5 The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise his authority for forty-two months.

- *Spell it out in days*

God knows the propensity of those wise in their own estimation not to believe that God says what He means and means what He says. To leave no doubt God spells it out in terms of days so we can know that this is an absolutely literal period of time.

Revelation 11:3 And I will give power to my two witnesses, and they will prophesy for 1,260 days, clothed in sackcloth."

- *Time named as the "Great Tribulation"*

This literal period of time is called the "great tribulation".

Revelation 7:14 I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- *A time of distress*

It will be period of unequalled distress for the earth dwellers.

Matthew 24:21 For then there will be great distress, unequalled from the beginning of the world until now -and never to be equaled again.

What happens before and during the 70th week?

In our study of Daniel's book we have seen that the first 6 chapters are written in the gentile language of the day and give an overview of gentile history from Daniel's time forward. Then from chapter 7 onward Daniel deals specifically with the final history of Israel. He tells us that the fourth gentile kingdom will be destroyed "without hands" (Dan 2) but gives no details of how God deals with the gentiles. Since we belong to that group, I would like to detour a bit into some other parts of prophecy where the Lord gives us information how we as gentiles, but more specifically as members of the "called out ones" the "church" fit in between chapter 6 and 7 of Daniel and again into the time between verses 26 and 27. Included in this will be some key events before and during this time.

- *Chess clock*

In time limited chess games a special kind of clock is employed to measure or determine the time of each player. Earlier we looked at some of the scriptural evidence for a time interval between the 69th and 70th week of Daniel. After the 69th week for Israel ended with the execution of their Messiah, God stopped the clock for Israel and started the clock for the church.

- *Fullness of the gentiles*

Beginning on the day of Pentecost, gentile church clock has been running for about 2000 years now and no one knows when God will stop it and then start Israel's clock again.

Romans 11:25 I do not want you to be ignorant of this mystery, brothers, so that you may not be conceited: Israel has experienced a hardening in part **until** the full number of the Gentiles has come in.

Notice the word 'until', is a time word. The event which stops the gentile clock and restarts it for Israel is given to us in a number of places in the Bible. It will occur some time before the covenant in Dan 9:27 is made. The name theologians have coined for this event is "The Rapture" which comes from the Latin rapturo meaning "catching away". We derive the word "Raptor" for a bird of prey, such as an eagle swooping down suddenly.

- *A sudden event*

When the Father says to His Son: "Go get your bride" Jesus will waste no time, but immediately head for Earth where He will give the order to the archangel to cry out in loud voice, loud enough to wake up the dead, while God himself will blow the trumpet that will command them to come out of their graves. Notice it is a specific the group of people: "the dead in Christ" who will respond.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

1 Thessalonians 4:17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

- *No one knows "when"*

The "when" of time, such as a date, is specifically hidden. Jesus was very definite about that:

Matthew 24:36 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Acts 1:7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

- *Surprise, surprise*

The important thing is to be ready always, for it will come when it is least expected, even by the most devout believers. Jesus illustrates this in:

Matthew 25:5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they **all** became drowsy and fell asleep.

Notice the little word "all". They were all virgins (pure) yet surprised when the event finally came. They like the disciples in Gethemane were asleep and had a sudden awakening. However, fully half of them were not ready. They were off buying oil when the bridegroom came and they stayed behind.

Patterns and Models

In order for God to get truth across to us he constantly uses what I prefer to call models, theologians call them types or shadows. When an architect or engineer wants to communicate the design of a building or machine to others, he will often build a model. God does this extensively. Examples are: the system of sacrifices, the Jewish tabernacle and temple, the lives of many of the Bible characters and so forth. The models of the statue and the beasts and their meanings as we studied in the previous chapters of Daniel are another example of God's model making.

- *The pattern of Enoch*

In Genesis 5 we have a genealogy from Adam to Noah. In each instance, except for Enoch, there is the sad refrain " and he died". Enoch was the father of Methuselah, the man who lived longer than any other. Of Enoch scripture says:

Genesis 5:23 Altogether, Enoch lived 365 years.

Genesis 5:24 Enoch walked with God; then he was no more, because God took him away.

Enoch walked with God and was taken away by God before the time of the great judgment of the flood. Noah **also** walked with God and was called righteous and did see the time of the flood and was preserved through the flood.

Genesis 6:9 This is the account of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked with God.

Is Enoch a model of the church spared the **time of trial** and Noah and his family a model of Israel being preserved **through the trial**?

- *Where was Daniel?*

In chapter 3 of Daniel we read the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (their Babylonian names) and their rescue out of the fiery furnace. In studying the Bible, it is often instructive to determine what is not said. Daniel is one of two people in all of scripture who are called beloved, the other being the apostle John. Both were shown the time of the end, Daniel from an earthly viewpoint and John from a heavenly perspective. They never spoke the words: "thus saith the Lord", yet both of them were shown the future in such a gripping manner that it affected them bodily.

Daniel 9:23 *At the beginning of thy supplications the commandment came forth, and I am come to shew thee; for thou art greatly beloved: therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision.*

In all of chapter 3 there is no mention of Daniel. Where was he when his friends were thrown to the fiery trial?

- *Out of reach*

We are not told where he was at this time, but he was certainly not where Nebuchadnezzar could get a hold of him immediately, or he would have been subject to the same decree which he could not, as a God fearing Jew, obey and thus would have been subject to the same trial by fire. Is Daniel the beloved, being spared from the *time of trial*, a model for the beloved bride of Christ, the church, and the three Hebrews a model for Israel, being delivered *through the trial*?

- *Kept from the hour of tribulation*

Jesus speaks to the Philadelphia church:

Revelation 3:10 Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from **the hour** of trial that is going to come upon the whole world to test those who live on the earth.

This church is to be kept from the time of tribulation, from the period of, not only the actual tribulation. He is not speaking about tribulation and suffering in general, but of a very specific time "**the hour**" in history.

- *No wrath for the church*

Notice also who this trial (judgment) is for: "... those that live on the earth". It is the time of wrath and yet scripture says:

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- *Safely hidden*

In the old testament there is an intriguing passage concerning the safekeeping of "my people" from the wrath to come upon "the people of the earth":

Isaiah 26:20 Go, my people, enter your **rooms** and shut the doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until his wrath has passed by.

Isaiah 26:21 See, the LORD is coming out of his dwelling to punish the people of the earth for their sins. The earth will disclose the blood shed upon her; she will conceal her slain no longer.

Are these the church saints who will be hidden behind shut doors for a little while until His wrath passes by? I believe this to be the case. If not, then who are these and where are these "rooms" they are to be hidden in until God has punished the people of the earth? Notice also the "your rooms" denoting a place for those designated "my people". Jesus speaks of this:

John 14:2 In my Father's house are many **rooms**; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for **you**.

Notice He speaks of rooms (a specific location) and tells who that place is for -- namely His followers. Isaiah also speaks of a shut door and so does Jesus.

Matthew 25:10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

- *Escape*

In response to the questions of His disciples Jesus speaks of an unprecedented time of tribulation to come upon this planet.

Luke 21:35 For it will come upon all those who live on the face of the whole earth.

Luke 21:36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to **escape** all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man."

As part of that discourse he speaks of escape -- again to His disciples -- and ties the location of escape to standing "before the Son of Man" It is evident that there is provided a means of escape from "all that is about to happen" for some believers before this last seven years.

- *The "how" of the rapture*

There is a widely held assumption that when this event occurs, the living disciples of Jesus will suddenly disappear, as is expressed by the bumper sticker: "In case of Rapture this vehicle will be unmanned". The scripture does not support that assumption. Again, God gives us a model, in this case, Jesus Christ himself. Paul details the process:

1 Corinthians 15:51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed--

1 Corinthians 15:52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

- *The word --> changed*

236 allasso {al-las'-so}

1) to change, to exchange one thing for another, to transform

- *The word --> twinkling*

4493 rhipe {hree-pay'}

1) a throw, stroke, beat

2) a moment of time

First notice that it is a transformation from a perishable to an imperishable body and that it occurs "in the twinkling of an eye". This was about the shortest time span Paul's readers could imagine at the time. The Greek word carries the idea of an indivisible small piece of time.

- *The shortest possible time*

Modern science has learned that time itself, a created thing, just like matter and energy cannot be arbitrarily divided into smaller and smaller pieces. There is a quantum of time ($\sim 10^{-43}$ sec), though exceeding small, that cannot be made any smaller.

- *The first resurrection*

This event is also called the first resurrection, and in the light of , it is important to look at the resurrection of Jesus.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

- *Jesus was on earth for 40 Days*

After Jesus was resurrected he remained here on this earth living in His glorified, immortal body for a period of 40 days and after that he physically ascended to heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

Acts 1:3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

Mark 16:19 After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.

Jesus is the pattern, and those that have been transformed at that time shall be like Him

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

They will not simply disappear the instant after transformation, leaving crashed cars, airplanes and other chaos behind, for God is not the creator of chaos. Jesus in his immortal state interacted with His loved ones and admonished and instructed them. According to this model, it is quite reasonable to expect that those who have been transformed may also be here on earth for a short period of time, perhaps also 40 days. They will minister in the name of Jesus and have to tell those who were not transformed that they cannot help them.

- *Wise and foolish interaction*

The parable of the virgins shows that those who were ready and later allowed to go into the feast when the bridegroom showed up, interacted with the foolish ones but were not able to help them. It is interesting that the foolish ones had some time to try to get oil but when they finally did come, were locked out.

- *A ride into the clouds where Jesus is*

After that the immortal ones will ascend into the sky, likely high above Jerusalem just as Jesus did

Acts 1:10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them.

Acts 1:11 "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."

There they will meet Jesus who will then personally escort His beloved bride to the Father's house for the greatest celebration Gods entire creation has ever experienced -- the wedding of the bride to her bridegroom the Son of God most high.

- *God continues His work of redemption*

After the church is gone, there will be a large in-gathering of believers from all nations, but especially from Israel. The Holy Spirit will work with and through Israel to minister to millions world wide and at the same time, the hate of the godless towards believers in Yeshua in and outside of Israel will reach unprecedented proportions.

- *A difference between the faithful and infidels*

Today in the so-called Christian West, it is sadly true, that often there is not much apparent difference between Christians and unbelievers. Islam, which teaches and practices the destruction of all who will not submit to it, is growing sharply. During that time however, because of this fact, there will be a very sharp division between Christians and those who reject the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We read of believers alive during that time:

Malachi 3:17 "They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him.

Malachi 3:18 And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

That same period of time of wrath toward the sinners is also the time that God gathers up His treasure out of the fields of Earth, especially the Jews many of whom will believe in Jesus, their Messiah. The context of the above verses is set in end times, the 70th week, when God will again bless Israel.

- *Believing Messianic Jews*

Those in Israel, who are believers in Yeshua, will flee to Edom (today's Jordan) as the armies of the world assemble in the valley of Armageddon for the final assault on Jerusalem.

- *Head for the hills*

Because they believe Yeshua, they will have heeded His admonition to get out of there in a big hurry and head for the hills. The mountains to Israel are towards what today is Jordan, the land of Edom.

Matthew 24:15 "So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel--let the reader understand--

Matthew 24:16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.

Matthew 24:17 Let no one on the roof of his house go down to take anything out of the house.

Matthew 24:18 Let no one in the field go back to get his cloak.

- *A desperate cry*

There these believers will find shelter and desperately cry for the Lord Jesus to save them from seeming sure destruction. The Lord will hear this cry after the powerful military machine of Israel is utterly defeated by the armies of earth. Yeshua, and He alone, will fight for and with His people, just as we read in the days of old. He tells us about this:

Isaiah 63:1 Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."

Isaiah 63:2 Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress?

Isaiah 63:3 "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing.

Isaiah 63:4 For the day of vengeance was in my heart, and the year of my redemption has come.

Isaiah 63:5 I looked, but there was no one to help, I was appalled that no one gave support; so my own arm worked salvation for me, and my own wrath sustained me.

Isaiah 63:6 I trampled the nations in my anger; in my wrath I made them drunk and poured their blood on the ground."

Isaiah sees the scene from an earthly perspective and John from a heavenly view. In both instances, Jesus' robe is soaked with the blood of His enemies as he destroys them in the final battle and leads His faithful followers triumphantly to Jerusalem. Notice the juxtaposition (v4) of "day of vengeance" and "year of my redemption" and the contrasting of salvation and wrath in v5.

- *Vengeance and redemption*

Vengeance towards the enemies of God and redemption for the remnant of Israel who believed and obeyed Yeshua's admonition (Matt24:16) to flee to safety in the nick of time. Notice also that vengeance is associated with a day, a short period of time while redemption is associated with year, a much longer time. God likes redemption much better than wrath and spends much more time doing that. His work of and the opportunity for redemption of humanity was promised immediately after the fall and has been going on for thousands of years, but the time of wrath will be only three and a half years.

- *Heavenly hosts enter our time domain*

In Rev 19:14 it mentions the armies of heaven (heavenly hosts) dressed in white following Him. Notice the similarities to Isaiah, such as the bloody robe, the picture of the winepress, and the wrath of the coming One.

Revelation 19:11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war.

Revelation 19:12 His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.

Revelation 19:13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

Revelation 19:14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 19:15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

Revelation 19:16 On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Among the hosts of heaven I believe are all those who are made righteous by faith - like Abraham - and therefore have partaken of the first resurrection (of which the "Rapture" is but a small part) and will now along with Christ re-enter this time-space dimension and be on earth in their new immortal bodies participating in the Lord's righteous but stern rule over all surviving mortals who are still subject to the limitations imposed by the fall of man.

Conclusion

- *Relevant to our time*

Of what we have studied in Daniel so far, the prophecies in chapter 9 are highly relevant to our time. I firmly believe that God the Father could give the "go get your beloved bride, the church" order to His son any time now and that all true Christians better be doing what He asks us to do.

- *Let's help in the harvest*

God has given discernible patterns to teach us of His ways and searching them out is a challenge. Understanding these patterns is not central to being pleasing to God, rather the doing of His will by believing His son, Jesus Christ.

For true followers of Jesus it is pointless, even sinful to squabble and cause divisions over when the "Rapture" will take place the eternal plan of God.

- *Dark times are coming*

Dark times will be coming, but throughout history, God's love and power was always most evident in the darkest times. The darker the time, the brighter we all can shine for our Lord, helping in the harvest by living a life that those around us will also want to have. We are looked at by God as Kings and Priests, even though we don't always feel like that.

- *Work with Christ in your heart*

Here is how the Apostle Peter expresses what we ought to be doing:

1 Peter 3:15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,

- *Readiness in purity*

Some may see the idea of a "Rapture" before the "Great Tribulation" as wishful thinking and escapism, but scripture sees it as a powerful incentive to be pure and holy.

1 John 3:2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:3 Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Let us therefore encourage one another to be faithful and holy servants of the KING of KINGS and by the Spirit say "Come Lord Jesus, come quickly".