



# THE GREAT PROPHECY OF DANIEL

A Study of Daniel 9 "The Great Prophecy of Daniel" • Part One (v. 24)

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@southreno.com.

## A. INTRODUCTION

### 1. We are about to embark on some of the most difficult verses in the Bible.

This is my interpretation this morning. However, I reserve the right to change my mind tonight. Further, I reserve the right to change my mind tomorrow, next week, next month, next year and any other time." - Dr. Alister Begg

After spending dozens of hours studying four verses, I've concluded—alone with most others—that these are the most challenging verses to fully comprehend. We can understand them, but it will take great effort and insight on our part. - Dr. John MacArthur

### 2. We now move from the 'great prayer' to the 'great prophecy' of Daniel.

### 3. This monumental chapter 9 reveals the following details:

- i. The Babylonian captivity would soon end.
- ii. Israel's kingdom would not be restored immediately.
- iii. God's kingdom would be established eventually.
- iv. The coming Messiah would die.
- v. Israel will face great trouble before the promised Kingdom would be established.
- vi. The reliability of Scripture is significant.

## B. OVERVIEW OF THE LAST FOUR VERSES OF DANIEL 9

1. **Chronology** - Daniel 8:1 occurred in 551 BC, near the end of the Babylonian kingdom. Daniel 9:1 occurred in 539 BC the first year of the reign of Darius, the first Medo-Persian king. Daniel is now in his 80's. The Babylonian captivity began in 605 BC. Daniel 9 occurs in 539 BC.  $605 - 539 = 66$  years have been completed! Therefore, four years of the Babylonian Captivity are left to endure.
2. **Circumstances** - Israel will be in captivity for 70 years. It is going to be another 70 years X 7 years before the God's Kingdom is established! You see, Israel had violated 70 sabbatical cycles. The 490 Years ( $70 \times 7 = 490$ ) are related to the violated Sabbatical Years
3. **Content** - "Confessing his sin and the sin of his people..." (Dan. 9:20); "Therefore, consider the message and understand the vision..." (Dan. 9:23)
4. **Conclusion** - "The Decree Seventy Sevens for Israel..." (Daniel 9:24a, KJV)

## C. STUDY OF DANIEL 9:24

**STUDY SECTION: Daniel 9:24, NASB** - <sup>24</sup> "Seventy weeks [In the simplest of terms, with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls (1948), the advancement in the ability of theologians to communicate and publish (ie., the internet, data bases, etc.), the clarification of ancient linguistics of ancient Hebrew and with the expansion of theological higher education, we now understand the critical Heb. phrase שְׁבַעִים שָׁבָעִים is used as a 'double plural,' lit., "seventy weeks of years." This critical clarification, when interpreted in a post 1 century world, makes the chronological math possible; (The Heb. word translated "seven" is similar to our word "dozen"...it can mean a dozen minutes, a dozen weeks, a dozen years, a dozen eggs, etc.) **The Point: God is telling Daniel that Israel's exile will not last 70 years. It will last  $70 \times 7$  years or 490 years] have been decreed for your people [a reference to Israel] and your holy city [a reference to Zion (Jerusalem)], (1) to finish [lit., 'present a solution' to the ongoing issue of sin] the [notice the definite article, ie., the specific transgression of rejecting Christ as the Messiah] transgression, (2) to make an end [once and for all] of sin [which will happen at His second coming], (3) to make atonement [lit., a sacrifice (ie., in the temple)] for iniquity, (4) to bring in everlasting righteousness, (5) to seal up vision and (6) prophecy and to anoint the most holy place.**

- (1) **To finish the transgression:** Israel's rejection of the Messiah at His first coming (Bethlehem). Soon, all of Israel will know that Jesus is the Messiah.
- (2) **To make an end of sin:** Although Jesus provided the means to deal with sin at His first coming, sin will not be closed or sealed up until His second coming. We will see the once-and-for-all end of end of the millennial reign.
- (3) **To make atonement for iniquity:** to make "atonement" means to provide a sufficient sacrifice for sin. That happened at the cross of Jesus Christ.

**Sin's solution • Sin's forgiven • Sin's penalty paid for—once-and-for-all...**

**In the life and death of Jesus Christ!**