

Theme: Daniel's seventy sevens give us a picture of the coming of the Messiah to fulfill the old covenant and establish the new covenant, bringing full salvation for His people but judging those Who reject His sacrifice.

I. Intro - A Difficult Passage

- A. Daniel has some difficult passages - and this is the most contested in the whole book!
- B. Many widely divergent interpretations of this text
- C. William Miller used this to predict Jesus would return between March 1843 and March 1844; then revised to April 18, 1844. Obviously wrong - but many denominations grew out of his movement!
- D. What does this text mean? How do we interpret it?
- E. One key - interpret prophetic riddles in light of the clear teaching of Scripture, letting Scripture interpret Scripture
He said, "Listen to my words: **"When a prophet of the Lord is among you, I reveal myself to him in visions, I speak to him in dreams.**"⁷ But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house.⁸ **With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles;** he sees the form of the Lord. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?" Numbers 12:6–8

II. An Answer to Daniel's Prayer

- A. Gabriel brings an answer from God
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.²² He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding."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: Dan 9:21–23
1. Gabriel brings an answer from God

2. Time of evening sacrifice - the answer has a lot to do with sacrifice for sin
3. It is meant to give understanding but we must consider it to understand

- B. The answer - **sin, the people of God, and Jerusalem**
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...**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...** Daniel 9:20, 24

1. Daniel had been confessing sin - and the answer is related to dealing with sin
2. Daniel had also been praying for God's people and Jerusalem and the Temple - and the answer is related to them
3. God is here giving His prophetic promise to deal with the sin of His people and Jerusalem

III. Messiah's Work: Sin, Salvation, and Judgment

- A. Messiah will deal with the sin of His people
Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to **finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness...** Daniel 9:24
1. God will deal with the sin of His people - atonement
Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. **But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.** Heb 9:26
 - a. Jesus appeared and did away with our sin!
 - b. He has put an end to our sin - forever!

My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense — Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ² He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. ¹ John 2:1–2

- c. Jesus has atoned for our sin, bearing the wrath we were due!
- d. This has dealt with our sin fully, completely, forever!

2. Messiah will bring in everlasting righteousness to bring in everlasting righteousness... Daniel 9:24

- a. This is the flip side of atoning for sin
- b. Jesus takes away sin and gives righteousness

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21

and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ — the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. Philippians 3:9

- 1. Christ took our sin & gave us His righteousness
- 2. We now are covered with the righteousness of God
- 3. This is everlasting righteousness!!

B. Messiah will seal up vision and prophecy to seal up vision and prophecy Daniel 9:24

- 1. A seal completed & verified a thing was authentic
- 2. He is the end of OT prophecy (its goal & conclusion)

For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. Matthew 11:13

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son... Hebrews 1:1–2

- a. OT prophecy ended with John the Baptist
- b. God's final Word is His Son, the Eternal Word, Jesus.
- c. Jesus was also the focus of OT prophecy

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" Luke 24:25–26

- 1. The prophets all spoke about Jesus - He is the focus
- 2. But the disciples were slow to see this - and many in Israel refused to see it (more in a bit)
- 3. The prophets - including Daniel 9:26-27 - speak of Jesus' suffering and death!

C. This is all about Messiah

and to anoint the most holy. 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.'... ²⁶ After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. Dan 9:24–26

- 1. The Most Holy will be anointed - Jesus was anointed with the Spirit at His baptism
- 2. Daniel had been concerned about the Temple - but Jesus is the True Temple of God of which the OT Tabernacle and Temple were but a pale shadow\ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14 (also see John 2:19-22)
- 3. Jesus is the Christ, the Anointed One, who came to atone for the sins of God's people and give them righteousness, fulfilling all the prophets had foretold.

IV. Jesus' Work: In With the New, Out With the Old

A. The Seventy Sevens - A Prophetic Timetable

Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression...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.²⁶ **After the sixty-two 'sevens,'** the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing... Daniel 9:24–27

1. Seventy sevens, 7+62+1 sevens
2. This lays out when these things will happen
3. The sevens are based on Sabbath - weeks & years
4. The 7 sevens point to the year of Jubilee - the only reason for the first 7 is to point to sabbath, Jubilee pattern
5. Some see this as symbolic (7 is often a symbol), but it probably refers to 490 years, 483+7
6. I will go over the dates in After Hours

B. Salvation and Judgement

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.²⁷ 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 9:26–27

1. These verses are an example of parallelism - **ABAB**
2. Part A - sacrifice for sin
After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing...²⁷ 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... Daniel 9:26–27
 - a. During the 70th seven the Messiah will be cut off - put to death - and will have nothing
By oppression and judgment he was taken away. And who can speak of his descendants? **For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.** Is 53:8
 - b. The Messiah will confirm God's covenant with many by his knowledge **my righteous servant will justify many,** and he will bear their iniquities. Isaiah 53:11
For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and **to give his life as a ransom for many.** Mark 10:45
This is my blood of the covenant, which is **poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.** Matthew 26:28
For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also **through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.** Romans 5:19
 1. The phrase from Isaiah is used by Daniel and then throughout the NT to refer to Christ's death for His people
 2. Jesus has enacted the New Covenant, shedding His blood and giving Himself for many - His people
 - c. In the middle of the seven, He will put an end to sacrifice and offering for sin

Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

¹³Since that time he waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, ¹⁴ because by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy... ¹⁸ And where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. Hebrews 10:11–14, 18

1. The sacrifices of the old covenant were repeated over and over but never took away sin
 2. Jesus offers Himself once and sins are actually removed and His work is finished forever
 3. After this ONE sacrifice, the old covenant sacrificial system is done away - it is the end of sacrifice and offering for sin
- d. The 'A' part of v26 and v27 is all about Jesus fulfilling the old covenant and ushering the new covenant for His people

3. Part B - judgment on unbelieving Israel & Jerusalem

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... ²⁷ 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 9:26–27

- a. Unbelieving Israel that rejected Jesus will be judged
 1. The parable of the vineyard owner and wicked tenants point this out (Matthew 21:33-46)
 2. Those who refused Messiah are left in their sin
- b. Rome will destroy Jerusalem and the Temple
- c. Temple was already desolate and its sacrifices an abomination

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing. ³⁸ Look, your house is left to you desolate. Matthew 23:37–38

1. Jerusalem rejected the Messiah & would be judged
 2. The Temple is desolate - God's Spirit is gone
 3. Any further sacrifices are an abomination to God because they reject the true sacrifice of Jesus
- d. Jesus said the Temple would be physically destroyed later

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 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." ³As 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?" Matt 24:1-3

1. Jesus - this Temple will be destroyed (v2)
2. Disciples - when? (v3) - Matthew 24 about this!

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 — ¹⁶ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Matthew 24:15–16

When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near.

²¹Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. ²² For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. Luke 21:20–22

- (a) Matthew points to Daniel; Luke interprets it for us

- (b) The abomination that causes desolation was the Roman armies surrounding Jerusalem
 - (c) This was all fulfilled in 70AD
 - (d) See Josephus Antiquities Book 10, Chapter 11.17 - he says the same thing
 - (e) The Temple, already devoid of the Spirit and offering abominations, was finally desecrated and destroyed, never to be rebuilt
- e. The 'B' part of v26 and v27 is all about the end of the old covenant as those who rejected Messiah and His sacrifice are judged and the city and Temple are destroyed.

C. Daniel's seventy sevens give us a picture of the coming of the Messiah to fulfill the old covenant and establish the new covenant, bringing full salvation for His people but judging those Who reject His sacrifice.

V. Applying the Word

A. How do I respond to Christ?

1. Everything in this passage is a response to Daniel's prayer of confession of sin
2. God dealt with sin through Jesus the Messiah
3. His atoning death offers to remove our sin and establish us as the forgiven, justified people of God, covered with His righteousness
4. But many of the people of Israel rejected Him, preferring their own religion and works to Him.
5. This brought judgment upon them as they perished in their sin.
6. This is a picture for us today as well
7. Have I embraced Christ's sacrifice or spurned it?

B. The Table of the New Covenant

1. This is the Table of the New Covenant
2. Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed!
3. His work has secured forgiveness of sin, the gift of righteousness, and all of the covenant blessings for us!
4. He has given us the Spirit, the guarantee of our full inheritance as God's Covenant children
5. Come and receive the gifts of God for the people of God!

Daniel's Seventy Sevens

Daniel 9:20-27

October 24, 2021

Communion

Hebrews 13:20-21

Teaching keywords: New Covenant; Old Covenant; prophecy (Old Testament); Gospel; Tabernacle and Temple; judgment; eschatology

May the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep,²¹ equip you with everything good for doing his will, and may he work in us what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. Hebrews 13:20–21

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

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