

Daniel 9:16-24 – Daniel's Supplication

The Babylonian empire had fallen and Daniel studied the writings of Jeremiah to see when God's people would return to the land promised to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Daniel knew that it was God's judgment of sin which drove God's people out of the Promised Land. Daniel confessed his sins and the sins of the people. After adoration and confession of sins, Daniel turned to supplication.

Read Daniel 9:16-19.

In verse 16, what was Daniel's request? What was the basis of Daniel's request? What had become of Jerusalem and God's people? (9:16)

In verse 17, what was Daniel's request? What was the basis of Daniel's request? Why did Daniel plead for mercy? (9:17)

In verse 18, what was Daniel's request? What was the basis of Daniel's request? This is a great approach to remember. We do not approach God based on our righteousness but based on the mercies and grace of God. We also approach God through our great high priest, Jesus Christ. See Hebrews 4:14-16. (9:18)

In verse 19, what five requests did Daniel make? What was the basis for the requests? How would Daniel's request "benefit" God? What can we learn about prayer from Daniel's example of prayer? (9:19)

Read Daniel 9:20-23.

How did Daniel summarize what he had done in verses 4-19? (9:20)

What happened to Daniel while he was praying? When had Daniel previously seen Gabriel? See Daniel 8:16. Some think that "the vision at the first" refers to the vision in chapter 7 and not chapter 8. "The time of the evening sacrifice" is interesting. Were evening sacrifices occurring at that time in Jerusalem? Why did Daniel mark time in this way? (9:21)

Why was Gabriel sent to Daniel? (9:22)

How fast did Daniel get a response to his prayer? Is that typical? What word of encouragement did Gabriel give to Daniel? What was Daniel's responsibility once Gabriel had spoken to him the vision from God? (9:23)

Read Daniel 9:24-27.

Volumes have been written about these verses. Dale Ralph Davis said that his first lecture on these verses was titled "Seventy Weeks and Twenty Problems". For this session, we will just cover verse 24. We will leave verses 25-27 for next time. Edward J. Young devoted about 30 pages to verses 24-27 in his commentary. There are four or five main interpretations of these verses. Each main interpretation has variations. Dale Ralph Davis does not fit neatly into any of the main interpretations. One key to understanding verses 25-27 is understanding verse 24. What is the meaning of each of the six purposes for the decreed seventy weeks? Don't answer that question yet. We will break each one down.

The first main question concerns the meaning of "seventy weeks" (ESV, NKJV, NASB). NIV has "seventy 'sevens'" which appears in the ESV footnote. Does the "weeks" or "sevens" represent seven days, seven years, a symbolic period of time, or something else? (9:24)

What does "finish the transgression" (ESV, NKJV) mean? NIV has "finish transgression". NASB has "finish the wrongdoing". The Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament (HALOT) says that in Daniel 9:24 "finish" means "to complete" or "to check". When was that accomplished or when will it be accomplished? (9:24)

What does "put an end to sin" (ESV, NIV) mean? NASB and NKJV have "make an end of sin(s)". HALOT says that in this verse it means "reach the full measure of transgression (sin)". When was that accomplished or when will it be accomplished? (9:24)

What does "atone for iniquity" (ESV) mean? NKJV has "make reconciliation for iniquity". NASB has "make atonement for guilt". NIV has "atone for wickedness". When was that accomplished or when will it be accomplished? "Transgression", "sin" and "iniquity" were all part of Daniel's confession earlier in the chapter. (9:24)

What does “bring in everlasting righteousness” (ESV, NKJV, NASB, NIV) mean? When was that accomplished or when will it be accomplished? (9:24)

What does “seal both vision and prophet” (ESV) mean? NASB, NKJV and NIV have “seal up vision and prophecy”. When was that accomplished or when will it be accomplished? (9:24)

What does “anoint a most holy place” (ESV) mean? The ESV footnote indicates “place” could also be “thing” or “one”. NKJV has “anoint the Most Holy”. NASB and NIV have “anoint the Most Holy Place”. When was that accomplished or when will it be accomplished? (9:24)