

## 2017: Week 11

Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> 2017

*"Messiah Has Come, and He Will Come Again"*

### Daniel 9:24

<sup>24</sup> Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place" (NASB)<sup>1</sup>.

John did an excellent job this past Sunday guiding us through another difficult passage from **Daniel 9**. This passage in Daniel has wonderful aspects regarding both prayer and prophecy. For the sake of time on Sunday, John focused more on the prophecy whereas in our devotion this week we will be able to further investigate Daniel's prayer too. A helpful reminder as we continue our study in Daniel– the Lord is in control. Even though He permits other nations and kingdoms to ascend in power, we must never forget that one day the Lord will establish His own kingdom on earth when Christ returns. We are living within frustrating and confusing times, but the Lord God is still seated on His throne above, and His dominion includes the earth as well. As Nebuchadnezzar stated earlier in Daniel, "The Most High is ruler over the realm of mankind..." (**Daniel 4:17**). Seek to glean wisdom and instruction from **Daniel 9** this week, and may you find encouragement in God's mighty power and authority.

### 1. "THE TEXT"

#### READ Daniel 9:1–19

- When you read Daniel's prayer, what elements of his prayer stand out to you as noteworthy or unusual?
- What are fundamental steps necessary towards proper confession and genuine repentance?

#### READ Daniel 9:20–27

- What were key events that the angel Gabriel prophesied to Daniel that would happen?
- According to Daniel's vision, there would be 7 and 62 "weeks", or 69 (7 + 62 = 69) periods of "sevens" from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah would enter the rebuilt city of Jerusalem and then be "cut off." This all needed to happen before the "people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary."
  - What do you think a) it means for a person to be "cut off," and b) what do you think "destroy the city and the sanctuary" means? Have these events already happened?
- Jesus was "cut off" when He died on the cross. Trustworthy Bible scholars date Jesus' death to near or around AD 33. We know from history that the Romans already destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple in AD 70. **Daniel 9:25–26** provides a strong argument that the Jewish Messiah must have come before AD 70.
- When looking at this text, it also seems that there is a gap between the 69<sup>th</sup> week and the 70<sup>th</sup> week as the "prince who is to come" makes a firm covenant for one week (**9:27**) and then stops sacrifices in the "middle of the week." This is where many Biblical scholars get the idea that this "prince who is to come" or the Antichrist will rise in authority during the final 70<sup>th</sup> week or period of seven years. When examining this passage in light of world history and other passages in the New Testament, it seems that this event has not yet occurred. We are still waiting for Daniel's final 70<sup>th</sup> week (or final period of "seven years") to occur before Jesus comes back again to establish His kingdom here on earth.

### 2. "YOU"

- How might Daniel's prayer influence your own view of sin, responsibility, confession, and prayer?
- How does this passage impact your view of Biblical prophecy and your expectation for the future?

### 3. "REMEMBER"

- **Acts 1:11** Angels (speaking to the apostles): "This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

**FAMILY PRAYER:** Dear God, Thank you for having a plan to redeem fallen mankind through your Son, Jesus! Amen.

<sup>1</sup> All Scripture notations taken from the **New American Standard Bible (NASB)** unless otherwise noted.