**The Book of Daniel
Chapters 7-12**

**Lesson 6**
*"The Lord changes the time and the epochs...and gives wisdom to the wise."*

Chapter 7-12 Outline

1. The vision of four great beasts and their judgment and its interpretation

2. The vision of the ram, the goat, and the little horn and its interpretation

3. Daniel's prayer of repentance for Israel

4. Angels interpret Daniel's visions and explain the final conflict that will occur in heaven and on earth

Daniel Chapter 9

v. 1 The first year of Darius, the Mede who "was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans *(the Babylonians)"*

Daniel 5:30: That very night Belshazzar the Chaldean king was killed...And Darius, the Mede

received the kingdom (at age 62)

Date: 539 BC: the 17th and last year of Belshazzar's reign

 14 years after Daniel's second vision of the goat and ram

 17 years after Daniel's first vision of the four beasts

This was the day that Cyrus the Persian conquered Babylon

This Darius *the Mede* is likely Gobryas, one of Cyrus' generals, who is given the responsibility of

ruling as a "viceroy"

A later Darius, Darius I the Great *(a Persian)* began to rule in 520 BC about 18 years later and ruled for 34 years (dying 53 +/- years after the 62-year-old Darius the Mede 539 BC date)

Also: Darius may be a title in Persian; a "Maintainer or Restrainer"

v.2 Daniels studied "the books" including "the word of the Lord to Jeremiah the prophet" who had predicted that the Jews would be in captivity, and undergo desolations for 70 years

 The 70 year was about up!

Jer. 29:10-11

For thus says the LORD: when *seventy years are completed for Babylon*, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfareand not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Jer. 25:11-12

This whole land shall become a ruin and a waste, and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. Then after seventy years are completed, I will punish the king of Babylon and that nation, the land of the Chaldeans, for their iniquity, declares the LORD, making the land an everlasting waste.

The *seventy years* in Jeremiah's prophecy

 From about 605 BC +/- to 538 BC +/-

 (The control over Israel by Nebuchadnezzar may have started a year or two before the first

deportation in 605 BC)

 *Or* the date the Lord set for the end of the Babylonian captivity may have been as the Jews were

returning with Zerubbabel to Judah, a year or so after Cyrus's 538 BC decree

Another seventy years explanation:

 From *586 BC (the date when Nebuchadnezzar destroyed Jerusalem and the first temple)...*

 To about *516 BC (the date the second temple construction was completed)*

v. 3-19: Daniel's prayer: a model for national, church repentance:

 Daniel prays with fasting and in sackcloth and ashes *(he was serious)*

  He worshipped the Lord

  He confessed the nation's sins, rebellion, and unwillingness to listen to the Word of the Lord from the

Lord's prophets

 He confessed that he, his nation, and his nation's *rulers* were ashamed of their actions

 He expressed sincere contrition, remorse, regret, and shame

 He admitted that the curses predicted by Moses if the nation was unfaithful had come to pass

Lev. 26: 14-16; 33

14 But if you will not listen to me and carry out all these commands, and if you reject my decrees and abhor my laws and fail to carry out all my commands and so violate my covenant, then I will do this to you… 33 I will scatter you among the nations and will draw out my sword and pursue you. Your land will be laid waste, and your cities will lie in ruins. Then the land will *enjoy its sabbath years* all the time that it lies desolate and you are in the country of your enemies

Daniel pleaded for his people, their plight, and forgiveness, asking the Lord to turn away His wrath and show mercy

Daniel also prayed for the sanctuary and the temple (v. 17) which had been destroyed

He asked the Lord to do this, not because of the nation's righteousness, but because the city and

people were called by *His name (which was being defamed)*

V. 20 While Daniel was praying, the angel Gabriel immediately flew to him in answer to the prayer and to interpret Daniel's visions

v. 23 Gabriel reassured Daniel that the Lord greatly loved him and appreciated his obedience and zeal for his people and his God.

v. 24 Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy place.

Seventy weeks *(of years)* are decreed about "your people and *your holy city*

To finish the transgression

 To put an end to sin (!!!)

 To atone for the iniquity

 To bring in *everlasting* righteousness

 To seal both vision and prophet: perhaps all visions and prophetic utterances *(at Jesus' second*

*coming?)*

The seventy weeks are assumed to be "70 weeks of years" = 70 X 7 year/week = 490 years

 Maybe not just 70/52 *true weeks* = 1 year and 4 days

 Note that prophetic (Jewish) years are 360 days long

 So 490 "prophetic years" may be about 483 years in our Gregorian calendar *(or maybe not!!)*

Lev. 25: 1-22; 26:33-35:

 The seventh year is a Sabbath year *(a week-worth of years)*

The 49th + one year is the 7X7 = the Jubilee year

II Chr.36:19-21

So the land enjoyed *its Sabbath rest* all the days of the desolation, until seventy years were completed, in fulfillment of the word of the LORD through Jeremiah.

Gen. 29: 20; 26-28

And Jacob *served seven years for Rachel*; and they seemed unto him but a few days, for the love he had to her...And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it *was* Leah: and he said to Laban, What *is* this thou hast done unto me? *did not I serve with thee for Rachel?* wherefore then hast thou beguiled me?

And Laban said, It must not be so done in our country, to give the younger before the firstborn. Fulfil *her* week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me *yet seven other years.* And Jacob did so, and fulfilled *her* week: and he gave him Rachel his daughter to wife *also.*

Three Interpretations: and Three caveats:

1. The most important point is that God has appointed the amount of time left on earth. He is in charge, so despite how desperate events became *(and become, and will becoming),* God people should not lose heart--the Lord's people will overcome and inherit eternal life.

2. "The prophetic is invariably so near as to give full warning, but so indeterminate as to give no satisfaction to mere curiosity."

3. "His master's voice"—a believer is promised that he/she will be able to hear the Lord speak

1. Maccabean *(Jewish)* interpretation:

 From the first deportation 605 BC > 490 yr. > 115

Fulfilled by Antiochus Epiphanes *(170 BC – 164 BC)*

 Why Not?

 The dates are way off *(not reaching the messiah)*

 Sin was not at the time "completely atoned for"

 All prophecy was not fulfilled *(the Word "sealed")*

 Eternal righteousness did not begin

 The Jewish people are still suffering 2000+ years later

 Jesus prophesied events that would occur after his life in the first century AD

2. The figurative interpretation

The seventy weeks, the seven weeks, are symbolic for the weekly Sabbath, Feast of Weeks, the Sabbatical years, and the year of Jubilee

3. The literal interpretation which dates the completion of the promises to the Jewish people from one of the four decrees of the Persian kings until the Messiah dies:

 a. The 70 weeks *(490 years)* end with Jesus and the Roman General Titus *(preterist view)*

 b. The 70 weeks *(490 years)* consist of 69 weeks *(483 years)* which takes us to Jesus...and then

there is a gap "the church age" *(futurist view)*

A final week *(seven years)* is yet future the Tribulation, the time of Jacob's Trouble

This interpretation is divided into two schools of thought:

 1) Make a further 7 + 62 + 1 week division

 2) Make a 69 + 1 division

Dan. 9:25-26 *KVJ*

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks:* the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. *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…

The beginning of the seventy weeks is fixed as "the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem and its wall ..." –not just build the temple

A complicating factor

The Gregorian *(solar)* calendar has 365 days

The Hebrew calendar year has only 360 days!!

 a. Every 19 years there are seven Hebrew leap years that add a month

 b. 490 Gregorian years would equal about 497 "uncorrected" Jewish years

 c. *But* the Jewish calendar "corrects" with "leap months"

The 70 weeks starts from one of the four decrees of the Persian kings

First Decree: **538 B.C*.***

By king Cyrus allowing the Jews to return to Jerusalem and begin to restore and rebuild *the*

*temple* and place the temple furnishing in it. The decrees implies but not explicitly state that they can build the city. Further, the Jews remained under Persian control.

Ezra 1;2-3

This is what Cyrus king of Persia says: "The LORD, the God of heaven, who has given me all the kingdoms

of the earth, has appointed me *to build a house for Him at Jerusalem* in Judah. Whoever among you

belongs to His people, may his God be with him, and may he go to Jerusalem in Judah and build the house of the LORD, the God of Israel."

Second Decree: **520 B.C**.

By Darius I confirming Cyrus' decree after it was disputed by the enemies of Israel around Jerusalem

Ezra 6:6-8 – this re-affirms but adds nothing to the first decree

Third Decree: **457 BC**

Artaxerxes I granted full authority to Ezra (7:12-26) and the Jewish people to establish a self-governing state in Judah in addition to the permission to build the temple that was given in Cyrus' first decree

Ezra 7:12-13

And you, Ezra, according to the wisdom of your God which you possess, are to appoint magistrates and

judges to judge all the people west of the Euphrates—all who know the laws of your God. And you are to teach these laws to anyone who does not know them.

Fourth Decree: **444 BC**:

Artaxerxes I gave permission for Nehemiah to work on re-building Jerusalem's walls, years after the temple had been rebuilt and the city established *(but not secure from its enemies)* (Neh. 2:7-8)

This adds nothing to the first three decrees

So, the first decree (538 BC) or third decree (457 BC) most likely "start the 70 weeks of years clock"

If from the first decree:

 538 BC > 483 or 490 years > 53 or 48 B.C. (*far too early to reach the death of Jesus)*

 The 7 + 62 + 1 system (49 + 434 + 7 years) with two "gaps" could work

 From 538 BC to 489 BC to "basically" build the temple, the streets of Jerusalem: 538 BC > 49

years > 489 BC

 Then a gap from 489 BC to 404 BC

 Then from about 404 BC > 434 years > Jesus' death in 30 AD

 If from the third decree in 457 BC

 457 BC > 490 = **33 AD** (the full 70 weeks)

 457 > 483 = **26 AD** (the 69 weeks)

The *first decree* by Cyrus addressed the building of the temple only *(with the city rebuild implied),* but did not give Jerusalem back to the nation to serve as their national capital; to make their own laws, to

govern themselves.  Jerusalem...They were still ruled directly by Persian laws.

 This *third decree* best fulfills the prophecy of Daniel 9:25-26 "...that from the going forth of the

commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince *shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks:* the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times..."

What is the date of the Messiah the prince and his being "cut off?"

Dan. 9:25-26

That from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem *unto the Messiah the Prince*shall be *seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks*: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. 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…

What is the date of Jesus' "coming" and death?

Luke 3:1, 15

**"**In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea… The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ."

The 15th year of Tiberius is well documented – it occurred around the year 27AD. As it turns out, it was this very year that Jesus was baptized, being about 30 years of age. Jesus ministered for three years and was likely crucified in 30 AD.

V. 21 "But I will tell you what is inscribed in the book of truth: there is no one who contends by my side against these except Michael, your prince."