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

**Lesson 7**
*"The Lord changes the time and the epochs...and gives wisdom to the wise."*

Summary of the Second Half of the Book of Daniel

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 9:24 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.

The seventy weeks are assumed to be "70 weeks of years"

 = 70 X 7 year/week = 490 years

 Two Views:

 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) – the final 7 years are yet to*

*come*

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

First Decree: by King Cyrus in 538 BC to rebuild the temple

Second decree: by King Darius I in 520 BC confirming the first decree

Third decree by king Artaxerxes I in 457 BC giving the Jews the right to rule their city

Fourth decree by king Artaxerxes I in 444 BC sending Nehemiah to rebuild the walls of the city

The *first decree* by Cyrus addressed the building of the temple only and did not give Jerusalem

back to the Jewish nation to serve as their national capital; to make their own laws, to govern themselves. They were still ruled directly by Persian laws.

The *third decree* of Artaxerxes I best fulfills the prophecy of Daniel 9:25-26

 If from the third decree in 457 BC:

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

 457 > 483 years to 26 AD *(the 69 weeks)*

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…

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 in the year A.D. 27

 As it turns out, it was this very year that Jesus was baptized, being about 30 years of age.

The wise men who searched for Jesus in the Christmas story understood that the days of the Messiah were coming

Herod the Great and his minions understood this as well:

Matt. 2:3-8

When King Herod heard this, he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had assembled all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he asked them where the Christ was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of My people Israel.’ *t*hen Herod called the Magi secretly and learned from them the exact time the star had appeared. And sending them to Bethlehem, he said: “Go and search carefully for the Child, and when you find Him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship Him.”

So...we can be assured that the prophesy of Daniel of 70 weeks of years from the decree to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and its streets and walls to the ministry and death of Jesus was about 70 weeks of years, or about 483-490 years

But does the "clock" end with Jesus' death, or is there a gap from Jesus' death of the "church age" after 69 weeks of years with one week *(seven years)* still remaining?

Two views: Preterist and Futurist

  Preterist means past in fulfillment

 Futurist means future in fulfillment

Preterists believe that most or all of Bible prophecy has already been fulfilled in Christ's first coming and the on-going expansion of His eternal kingdom we are now experiencing

The Catholic and Orthodox Churches and, in general, most mainline denominations *(notably*

*the Church of Christ)* have adopted a preterist view of end times *(or at least a "partial preterist"*

*view)*

Preterists believe in an early date *(before 70 AD)* for the writing of the book of Revelation and that virtually all of Revelation was fulfilled by the Roman general Titus when he destroyed the temple and persecuting the Jewish nation in 70 AD

Futurists do not believe that Christ's first coming has been successful in fully establishing His kingdom on earth. They believe that this reality was indefinitely postponed when the Jewish nation rejected and crucified Jesus

Futurists believe that most end-time prophecies, and that the book of Revelation starting in chapter 4 are yet to be fulfilled

Difficulties with the Preterist View:

 As bad as events have been for the Jewish people *(and the nations)* in the past, they have not

 been as horrendous as what Jesus predicts for the future!!

 And as much of a blessing as Jesus and the Holy Spirit is to us today, the world has not yet

 experienced the great, universal blessings promised at the end of the 70 weeks

10 Signs of the End Times as Prophesied by Jesus in Matthew 24

  Have occurred in part

 1. Calamities: earthquakes, natural disasters, plagues, wars, famines

 2. False prophets and deception

 3. The love of many will grow cold

 4. Persecution of believers will increase

 Have not yet occurred

 5. Gospel will be preached to the ends of the earth

 6. The "abomination of desolation"

 --This depends on Israel being reestablished as a nation in its "Promised Land"

 7. The gathering of Christ's people *(the rapture)*

 8. The Great Tribulation

 9. The Second Coming of Christ

 10. Heaven and/or the Millennial Reign of Jesus and Israel

Sign #5

Matt. 24:14

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a testimony to all nations, *and then the end will come*."

Bible translators predict that within the next ten years or so all or part of the Bible will finally be translated into all the major language groups of the world

Jesus predicted a great tribulation that outdoes even the Antiochus Epiphanes and the Titus events:

Matt. 24: 21

For at that time there will be *great tribulation, unmatched from the beginning of the world until*

*now, and never to be seen again.*  If those days had not been cut short, nobody would be saved. "But for the sake of the elect, those days will be cut short…"

Jesus predicted yet unfulfilled signs in the heavens:

Matt. 24:29

"Immediately after the tribulation of those days:

 ‘The sun will be darkened,

 And the moon will not give its light;

 The stars will fall from the sky,

 And the powers of the heavens will be shaken…'"

Jesus predicted world-wide recognition of Christ and a gathering of the saints out of the world:

Matt. 24:30

At that time *the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven*, and *all the tribes of the earth*

*will mourn*. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great

glory. And He will send out His angels with a loud trumpet call, and *they will gather His elect*

*from the four winds*, from one end of the heavens to the other.

Dan. 9:24

“Seventy weeksare decreed about *your people* and *your holy city*"

 To finish the transgression

 To put an end to sin and to atone for iniquity

 To bring in everlasting righteousness

 To seal both vision and prophet and to anoint a most holy place."

The desecration of the temple (*the first abomination of desolations)* by Antiochus Epiphanes IV in 168 BC does not fulfill these prophecies *(Jesus predicts a similar event beyond his time in 30 +/- AD)*

The destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 70 Ad by Titus does not completely fulfill these prophecies

Did the *greatest* suffering of the Jewish people in history occur In 70 AD?

 66-73 the Great Revolt *(vs. the Roman General Titus):* 100,000+ killed or sold into slavery

 The temple was leveled to rubble, but…

 The Jews stayed in the land and thrived for another 50+ years

 132-135 The Bar Kockba Revolt *(Emperor Hadrian):*

500,000 - 1,000,000 Jews died

 Most of the remaining were sold into slavery

 Jews were banned from Jerusalem

Consider the tribulation the Jews suffered during the "Holocaust"

There were 9 million European Jews before WWII

 There were only 3 million left after the war

 Note: There are currently 15 million Jews in the world today

The Jew had to be scattered throughout the world and then return a "second time" to fulfill prophecy

Is. 11: 11-13

On that day the Lord will *extend His hand a second time* to recover the remnant of His people from Assyria, from Egypt, from Pathros, from Cush from Elam, from Shinar, from Hamath, and from the *islands of the sea*. He will raise a banner for the nations and gather the exiles of Israel; He will collect the scattered of Judah *from the four corners of the earth*. – *(not just Egypt or Babylon)*

 Amos 9:14-15

"And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards**,** and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of the land which I have given them, saith the Lord."

Hosea 3:4,5

The children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice…afterward, shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their kin; and shall fear the Lord and His goodness in *the latter days*.

These promises were not fulfilled by the "first" return to the land of Canaan that Zerubbabel the governor and Joshua the priest were involved in:

  Only 600,000 men returned

 They came to Jerusalem from Babylon only—not the entire earth

The temple that was built was not as glorious as the first

 There was no ark in the holy of holies

 This temple was surely not the "anointed holy place" of Daniel's prophecy

The Jewish people throughout history and to this very day have been tormented by their enemies and have never lived in peace and triumph

Daniel's, Jesus', and the book of revelation's prophecies await a national Jewish repentance

Zech. Chapter 12:10 -12

Then I will pour out on the house of David and on the people of Jerusalem *a spirit of grace* and prayer, and they will look on Me,the One they have pierced.They will mourn for Him as one mourns *an only child*, and weep bitterly for Him as one grieves *a firstborn son*...

Zech. Chapter 12:10 -12 (continued)

...On that day the mourning in Jerusalem will be as great as the mourning of Hadad-Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo.  The land will mourn, *each clan* on its own: the clan of the house of David and their wives, the clan of the house of Nathan and their wives, the clan of the house of Levi and their wives, the clan of Shimei and their wives,  and *all the remaining clans* and their wives.”

We have only recently reached a place in history where Daniel's, Jesus', and Revelation's prophecies can be fulfilled these prophecies all awaited the Zionist movement of the 1900's and continued with the reestablishment of the Israeli state in 1948 AD

The Jews had to return to Palestine a *"second time" and be surrounded by enemies*intent on annihilate them (Psalm 83); (Luke 21:20)

Psalm 83

 O God, do not remain silent;
    Do not turn a deaf ear and do not stand aloof, O God.
 See how your enemies growl,
    How your foes rear their heads.

With cunning they conspire against your people;
   They plot against those you cherish.

 “Come,” they say, “let us destroy them as a nation,
    So that Israel’s name is remembered no more.”

 With one mind they plot together;
    They form an alliance against you—
 The tents of 1) Edom and the 2) Ishmaelites, of
    3) Moab and the 4) Hagrites,
5) Byblos, 6) Ammon and 7) Amalek,
    8) Philistia, with the people of 9) Tyre, even

 10) Assyria has joined in to reinforce Lot’s descendants *(Moab and Ammon)*

Check your Bible: There has never been a threat posed to Israel by all her enemies from all directions at the same time -- Psalm 83 awaits a future fulfillment

Why bother to count the number of enemies? What is the significance of "10?"

 In the books of Daniel and Revelation, who do the ten horns and ten kings represent?

 Rome's descendants (the European union)? The Catholic church?

 Maybe not: recall that Rome lost its rule over the holy place in 400 AD

Who ruled Jerusalem from 600 AD until 1918 AD? --and who is trying to recapture it today?

Who are the descendants today from the ten nations in psalm 83?

Who are the main persecutors of the Jewish people *(and the other covenant people of god,*

*us Christians)* today?

The answer to these questions is the descendants of the tribes of Palestine who in the Old Testament warred against Israel.

 These descendants are the Islamic and Arabic peoples of Palestine today.

On the Destruction of Israel:

*One of the written goals of Hamas*

Israel will exist and will continue to exist until Islam will obliterate it, just as it obliterated others before it.

*Mahmoud Zahar, Hamas Co-Founder:*

"Removing the Jews from the land they occupied in 1948 is an immutable principle because it appears in the Book of Allah."

Conclusion: there are many, many promises and prophecies from the Old Testament prophets, and from Jesus and the New Testament writers *which have not yet been fulfilled*

 They were not completely fulfilled by the destruction of the first temple by Nebuchadnezzar

 in 587 BC

 They were not completely fulfilled by the Seleucid ruler Antiochus Epiphanes IV who defiled

the second temple

 They were not completely fulfilled by Titus, the Roman general who destroyed the second

 temple in 70 AD

 They were not fulfilled by the many persecutors of Jews throughout history:

 The first and second crusaders

 The Spanish Inquisition

 The Czars of Russia

 Hitler and the Nazis

There are no apocalyptic events, no abomination of desolation, no antichrist, no signs in the heavens *seven years* after Jesus dies *(in the book of Acts)* in, say 40 AD

The seventieth week of Daniel 9:24-26 is yet to occur