

## DOCTRINE OF DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS

- I. Scripture: Dan.9:24-27.
- II. Background to the revelation.
  - A. Verses 24 – 27 are recorded in poetic format, but most translations do not reflect this fact.
  - B. Interpreters note that a change from prose to poetry in Daniel is significant and reflects a change in time, place or both.
  - C. It is prophetic of Israel post Babylonian captivity as to its future encompassing the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent and extended history to include the literal appearance of the anti-Christ.
  - D. The vision takes place at the end of the 70 years of Babylonian captivity, Dan.9:1 (around 538BC, in the first year of Darius).
  - E. This is about 67 years after the first fall of Jerusalem in 605BC when Daniel was captured.
  - F. It occurred after Daniel had his 70year breakthrough while studying Jeremiah. Dan.9:2 cp.Jer.25:11,12; 29:10,14
  - G. It occurred while Daniel was praying for his nation, Dan.9:4-19; cf. Lev.26 esp.vss.40-46
  - H. It was revealed by the angel Gabriel. Dan.9:20-23
- III. The entire prophecy has to do with Daniel's city and people (Jerusalem and the Jews). Dan.9:24
  - A. Six specific things have been decreed in fulfillment of the entire 70 weeks in view:
    - 1. To finish the transgression.
    - 2. To make an end of sin.
    - 3. To make atonement for iniquity.
    - 4. To bring in everlasting righteousness.
    - 5. To seal up the prophetic vision.
    - 6. To anoint the Most Holy Place.
  - B. The first 3 issues demand reversion recovery for the Jew's apostasy that denotes a completed or finished state of reversionism not to reoccur.
  - C. This demands that this prophecy extends beyond the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent, since the Jews killed Messiah in reversionism and remain in that condition even today.
  - D. The final 3 issues demands that the state of Israel will reflect a nation that operates under an unending state of righteousness, bringing to close any previous state of reversionism as related under this vision purifying their worship of God.
  - E. This demands the return of Christ at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent as the end to the revelation.
- IV. The term "weeks" refers to years of 360 days each (Jewish calendar).
  - A. Hebrew **בַּשָּׁבַע**, - shav; is the term for “seven”.
  - B. Israel had both a seven of days (weekly Sabbath) and a Sabbatical Year in a seven of years. Lev.23:3 cp. 25:3,4.

- C. Days renders the prophecy absurd.
  - D. Besides, Daniel's breakthrough involves a seven of years following the prophecy of Jeremiah. Dan.9:2.
  - E. The 70 seven's of Dan.9 are equal to 490 years of 360 days each.
  - F. Further, the 70 weeks are divided in to 7 and 62 weeks (69 weeks) to be differentiated prophetically from the final 70<sup>th</sup> week. Dan.9:25 cp. vs.27
- V. The 490 year period began March 5, 444BC, when Artaxerxes decreed to rebuild Jerusalem. Neh.2:1; Dan.9:25
- A. This decree is not to be confused with the decree to rebuild the temple, Ezr.1:1,2 cp. 4:11-24; 6:14,15; 7:11,20,27.
  - B. Although Cyrus II the Great, Darius and Artaxerxes I Longimanus issued decrees for restoration of the temple and allowed partial restoration of the city, not until the final decree of Artaxerxes in the 20<sup>th</sup> year of his reign was the city allowed to be completely restored.
- VI. The 69th week of years (483 years) ended, to the day, when Messiah rode up to Jerusalem in fulfillment of Zech.9:9 cp. Mat.21:1-11.
- A. It was the 173,880th day ( $69 \times 7 = 483$  yrs.  $\times$  360 days), or March 30, 33AD, on a Monday.
  - B. Jesus recognized that day as His formal rejection by the nation. Lk.19:42.
  - C. That day was the very last day of the 69th week. After that, the prophecy said Messiah would be cut off. Dan.9:26
  - D. The things producing prosperity are mentioned in Dan.9:24-25.
  - E. Ignorance of this led to the nation's destruction in 70AD (Lk.19:43-44) indicating that there must be a parenthesis in time of Israel out of the land before the remaining 70<sup>th</sup> week is fulfilled.
- VII. The parenthesis between the 69th and 70th week.
- A. The continuous interpretation, that the 70th week followed the 69th, renders the prophecy absurd.
  - B. Two prophetic events occur before the 70th week and after the 69th week:
    1. The Cross.
    2. The fifth cycle in 70AD.
  - C. Many Old Testament prophecies postulate a gap or parenthesis. Isa.9:6 cp. 53 noting that Isaiah understood that Christ would be killed before His eternal reign would be fulfilled.
  - D. To Daniel and other prophets, this gap presented a problem. 1Pet.1:10-11
  - E. The existence of our present dispensation of the Church solved the problem.
- VIII. The period between the 69th and 70th week is characterized by war. Dan.9:26; Mt.24:6.
- IX. The 70th week is a 7year period between the Rapture and the Second Advent (these are still 360-day years, not 365.25636 sidereal day years).
- A. This will conclude the final 7 years of the Age of Israel.

- B.** This week is synonymous to the period called the Tribulation and the time of Jacob's trouble. Jer.30:7; Mat.24; Mar.13:19,24
- C.** Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week and events surrounding it are the primary focus of discussion in the Book of Revelation chapters 4-19.
- D.** The Church will not go through this period. Rev.3:10.
- E.** For purposes of analysis, the Tribulation (the 70th week) is divided into 2 halves of 1,260 days each. Rev.11:2-3; 12:14; 13:5
- F.** This fits with Dan.9:27 that notes that the Antichrist will make a 7year pact with Israel in the middle of the week.
- G.** This pact is in response to America's nuclear annihilation and Russia's threats to Israel. Rev.18
- H.** For protection, Israel will accept the Antichrist as God, 2Thess.2:4; Rev.13 cp.Dan.8:9-14.
- I.** Israel will be disciplined for making a "*covenant with death*", Isa.28:15.
- J.** He will be destroyed by the Lord Jesus Christ at the Second Advent. Dan.9:27; 2Thess.2:8.