

Daniel:

God's Divine Ambassador

New Hope
Baptist Church
Winter Bible Study
2010



God's Answer to Daniel

- ❖ v. 21: Gabriel's appearance
 - ❖ Timed for the "evening sacrifice" (around 3 p.m.)
- ❖ v. 23: God had determined to answer Daniel's prayer "at the beginning" of his prayer
 - ❖ God would answer Daniel's prayer out of His love for him
 - ❖ "Greatly loved:" rarely used word (only 9 times in Scripture); in fact, used in Scripture only to refer to Daniel

God's Answer to Daniel

- ❖ What answer would God give to Daniel's intercession?
 - ❖ God extended the answer beyond the request; promised redemption not only for Jerusalem but for the world

“Seventy Weeks”

- ❖ “Seventy weeks are 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”
 - ❖ “transgression:” typical word for rebellion against God; intentional sin against God
 - ❖ God will “finish” the rebellion at the end of the 70 weeks

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 - ❖ “put an end to sin:” literally, “to seal” the end of sin
 - ❖ “to atone for iniquity:”
 - ❖ “to atone:” to expiate, appease: “to remove a barrier of wrath and bring into peaceful harmony”
 - ❖ Gabriel refers to all 3 major types of sin in the Hebrew language: rebellion, failure, and perversion

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 - ❖ “to bring in everlasting righteousness:” when sin ends, righteousness will begin and never end
 - ❖ “to seal both vision and prophet:” Moses referred to “a prophet like me”
 - ❖ Judaism recognizes no prophets after the time of Jesus
 - ❖ “to anoint a most holy place:” refers to the Holy of Holies

All 70 Weeks Together?

- ❖ “Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time”
 - ❖ “Weeks:” in this prophecy, each day equalled a year
 - ❖ “word to restore and build Jerusalem:” Artaxerxes’ command to Nehemiah on Nisan 1 (March 4/5) 444 B.C. (Neh. 2:1-8)

Appearance of the Prince

- ❖ “And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing”
 - ❖ “Anointed One:” “Messiah”
- ❖ How accurate would God make this prophecy?
 - ❖ 69 “weeks:” 483 years
 - ❖ Jews used the lunar calendar (12 months of 30 days)
 - ❖ $69 \text{ weeks} \times 7 \text{ years} \times 360 \text{ calendar days} = 173,880 \text{ days}$
 - ❖ Solar calendar: $69 \text{ weeks} \times 7 \text{ years} \times 365.25 \text{ days} = 173,855 \text{ days}$
 - ❖ Add the 25 days for the lunar calendar: March 30, A.D. 33 (Nisan 10): date the Prince would ride into Jerusalem

The Anointing

- ❖ v. 24: “To anoint a most holy place:”
 - ❖ Hebrews 9: Christ “appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come,” and went “once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption”
 - ❖ Unlike the high priest, who entered a temporal copy of the Temple, Christ “has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf”
 - ❖ Upon His ascension, Christ anointed the holiest place of all: heaven itself

End of the 69 Weeks

- ❖ Gap in the prophecy after the cutting off of the Messiah
 - ❖ v. 26, destruction of “the city and the sanctuary:” Titus destroyed both Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D. 70
 - ❖ “End” of western Roman Empire came “with a flood” of barbarians overflowing the Empire, A.D. 476
 - ❖ “To the end there shall be war:” “A smart soldier wants to know the causes of wars. Also how to end them. After all, war is the normal state of affairs, isn’t it? Peace is the name of the ideal we deduce from the fact that there have been interludes between wars.”
Jerry Pournelle

The Final Week

- ❖ Gap in the prophecy after the cutting off of the Messiah
- ❖ v. 27: And he shall make a strong covenant with many for one week, and for half of the week he shall put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall come one who makes desolate, until the decreed end is poured out on the desolator”
 - ❖ Last week of Daniel’s 70 Weeks: Period of intense tribulation at the end of time
 - ❖ Last week will end with the finishing of all sin (v. 24)

The End of All Things

- ❖ Last week of Daniel's 70 Weeks: Period of intense tribulation at the end of time
- ❖ Last week will end with the finishing of all sin (v. 24):
 - ❖ The Messiah will end humanity's rebellion against God
 - ❖ The Messiah will finish all sin
 - ❖ The Messiah has atoned for our iniquity
 - ❖ The Messiah will bring "everlasting righteousness"
 - ❖ Revelation 19:6: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns"
- ❖ Christians rejoice about the end when we remember the events of Holy Week