

Daniel 9:20-27 (NASB) Notes

⇒ Daniel's prayer gets interrupted with the answer!

⇒ Has this ever happened to you?

²⁰ Now while I was speaking and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the **LORD** my God in behalf of the holy mountain of my God,

⇒ What observations can be made from vv. 20-21 regarding prayer?

- Sinlessness is **NOT** a condition for answered prayer.

²¹ while I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in my **extreme weariness** about the time of the **evening offering**.

- “**extreme weariness**” or “**swift flight**”

- “**evening offering**” or sacrifice = “**ninth hour**” = 3-4 pm. Daniel's habit (**6:10**); Apostles' practice (**Ac.3:1**); prayers are like the incense of a sacrifice (**Ps.141:1-2**).

²² He gave me instruction and talked with me and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you **insight** with **understanding**.”

- “**insight with understanding**” – possibly synonymous, but also refers to prudence (even prosperous) with discernment.

²³ At the beginning of your supplications the command was issued, and I have come to tell you, for you are **highly esteemed**; so give heed to the message and gain understanding of the vision.

- “**highly esteemed**” or “**greatly loved**” = **Ezra 8:27** – value of gold; **Gen.27:15** – costly garments.

⇒ What does this word indicate about God's view of Daniel?

²⁴ “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.”

- “**weeks**” = “sevens” ... used to refer to years.
- “**decreed**” = used only here in the OT, but later used to mean “cut, cut off, cut out, decide.”
∴ God has “cut out” a certain period of time for a specific purpose.

⇒ Who is the focus of this decree?

⇒ What **six purposes** will be fulfilled by God? By the way, what had Daniel just been requesting in prayer?

- Daniel's **three prayer requests**:
 - Forgiveness of sins, **9:19**
 - Jerusalem be rebuilt, **9:16**

- The temple be restored, **9:17**
- First **three purposes** have to do with **sin**, while the last three have to do with **righteousness**.
 - **“finish the transgression”** – Complete the consequences of Israel’s rebellion.
 - **“make an end of sin”** – Bring to a conclusion Israel’s revolt against God’s authority.
 - **“make atonement for iniquity”** – Make a covering (**Gen.6:14; Ex.29:36-46**; etc.) via a sacrifice ... Cf., **Jn.11:44-42**. Remember when Daniel had been praying (**9:21**).
 - **“bring in everlasting righteousness”** – See **Jer.23:5-6; 31:31-34; Isa.4:2-6**
 - **“seal up vision and prophecy”** – God’s Kingdom is fulfilled, so no need for prophets.
 - **“anoint the most holy”** – Consecrate the Temple described in **Ezek.40 – 48**.

²⁵ So you are to know and discern that from the **issuing of a decree** to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until **Messiah the Prince** there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with **plaza** and **moat**, even in **times of distress**.

- Four decrees:
 - Cyrus, King of Persia (**2Chron.36:23; Ezra 1:1-4; 5:13**)
 - Darius, King of Persia (**Ezra 6:7-12**)
 - Artaxerxes Longimanus, King of Persia (**Ezra 7:11-26**)
 - **Artaxerxes Longimanus, King of Persia** (**Neh.2:5,7,8** and **Neh.4:16**)
- *According to **2:1**, this decree was given in Nisan (March/April), during his 20th year = **445 B.C.**

⇒ Who is “**Messiah the Prince**”? ... literally, “**the Anointed One who is leader**”

- On several occasions in the N.T. when they attempted to take Jesus as a King, He invariably declined, “**Mine hour is not yet come**” (**Jn.6:15; 7:30,44**). Then one day, He arranges it! ... **The Triumphal Entry** **Zechariah 9:9** – All four Gospels: **Mt.21:1-11; Mk.11:1-11; Lk.19:28-40; Jn.12:12-16**. Jesus deliberately arranges to fulfill Zech.9:9. This is the only day He allows them to proclaim Him King (**Lk.19:38**).

⇒ **The Triumphal Entry is 173,880 days (69 x 7 x 360 days) after the decree of Artaxerxes!**

- 49 years + 434 years = 483 years

April 6, 32 A.D. – Ancient calendars based on a 360-day year: Assyrians, Chaldeans, Egyptians, Hebrews, Persians, Greeks, Phoenicians, Chinese, Mayans, Hindus, Carthaginians, Etruscans, Teutons. Typically, twelve 30-day months. (In ancient Chaldea, their calendar was based on a 360-day year and it is from this Babylonian tradition that we have 360 degrees in a circle, 60 minutes to an hour, 60 seconds in each minute, etc.). In 701 B.C., all calendars appear to have been reorganized. Numa Pompilius, the second King of Rome, reorganized the original calendar of 360 days per year, by adding 5 days per year. King Hezekiah, Numa’s contemporary, reorganized his Jewish calendar by adding a month each Jewish leap year (on a cycle of 7 among every 19 years).

²⁶ Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be **cut off** and have nothing, and the people of **the prince who is to come** will **destroy the city and the sanctuary**. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

- “**cut off**” = literally, “kill or destroy” and is used in **Lev.7:20; Prov.2:22; Ps.37:9** to describe a person given the death penalty for a crime. (cf., **Psalm 22; Isaiah 53; Jn.1:11; 19:15; Lk.13:33-35; 19:14**)

- In AD 70, the Roman armies destroyed Jerusalem and the temple.

⇒ Who is the “*prince who is to come*”?

²⁷ And he will make a firm covenant with the many for **one week**, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate.”

⇒ One final week to make 70 ... when is this?

- The event that triggers this seven-year period is the signing of a covenant between the Antichrist and the Jewish nation (**Jn.5:43; Mt.24:15-28; Mk.13:14; Dan.11:31; 12:11; 2Thess.2:3; Rev.13; 19:11-21**).

⇒ What happens between vv. 26 & 27?

- The “mystery” of the Church, **Eph.2:11-22; 3:1-13; Gal.3:22-29; Rom.9 – 11**