

Daniel - Faithful to the End - Week 3

I. Intro

A. We are three weeks into our series called "Daniel- Faithful to the End"

1. We are following the visions of Daniel while he was in captivity in Babylon
2. Last week, in chapter 8:
 - a) We find Israel living in Babylon as slaves / Daniel is recording his experiences
 - b) God is still speaking to His people / preparing them for the future
3. Daniel sees a vision of Persia conquering Babylon, then Greece, then Rome, then Jesus, then the end of the world
4. God is faithful to His people through all of it

B. Let's pick up the story in Daniel 9

II. Text

A. vs 1-2

1. Think back to Daniel 5
 - a) Belshazzar is king over Babylon, and Daniel is having dreams about Persia conquering Babylon
 - b) Then, one night, it happens
 - c) The Mede / Persian empire conquers Babylon and Daniel is serving a new king, Darius the Mede
2. Watching prophecy come true made Daniel go back and read the Bible
 - a) Daniel is reading a prophesy in Jeremiah 25:11-12; 29:10
 - b) Israel will only be captive for 70 years
3. This is huge! God knew exile was coming. God knew how long.
 - a) Our God is sovereign and He fore-knows everything

B. vs 3-15

1. Daniel's response to God's sovereignty is prayer
 - a) This is big, because we often think God's all-power and our prayers are at odds with each other – they are not
2. Daniel prays 3 things...
 - a) He repents - Israel was wicked

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- b) He acknowledges God's faithfulness in punishment – you punished us like you said you would
 - c) He glorifies God – In punishment God showed that He is just, He is fair
3. These points are important to us because
- a) Repentance brings us low, God's faithfulness builds us up, and Jesus gets the glory
 - b) The process of sin and repentance leads us to Jesus

C. vs 16-19

1. Daniel prays – Let the same faithfulness that led to this punishment lead us to forgiveness
 - a) You are faithful to punish, please be faithful to save
 - b) Save Israel based on your mercy, not our actions
2. Our prayers revolve around God's faithfulness

D. vs 20-23

1. Daniel prayed God's will and heaven reacted
 - a) This is important because it builds our theology of prayer
 - b) God uses your prayers to release His word
2. This was God's word...

E. vs 24

1. This word week doesn't mean 7 days / A week is a measurement of 7 years (similar to decade is 10 or century is 100)
 - a) *You can find this also in Genesis 29:21-29 when Jacob works for a week (7 years) to marry Leah and another week (7 years) to marry Rachel*
2. You can read this as symbolism OR math, I'm fine either way
3. 70 weeks (70 x 7 years = 490 years -OR- a symbol for a long time) to accomplish 6 things
 - a) Finish Transgression / End Sin / Atonement for Iniquity / Bring Everlasting Righteousness / Seal Vision and Prophet / Anoint a Most Holy Place

F. vs 25

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1. "7 then 62" is a strange split. Most people have no idea why this is here
2. I think Gabriel splits the 7 from the 62 as a poetic way to say "this is good"
 - a) The temple will be rebuilt, times will be difficult
 - b) $7+62=69 \times 7 \text{ years} = 483 \text{ years}$ from the decree to rebuild the temple to Jesus' death
 - (1) Nehemiah 2 reflects a decree by Artaxerxes about 445 BC
 - (2) Symbolism is fine, but this math is scary close

G. vs 26

1. Whether you are following the symbolism or the literal math, the Messiah is cut off
 - a) Jesus is crucified, Rome destroys the temple in 70 AD, the Hebrews lose Israel and flee to the corners of the globe (the diaspora)
 - b) The world stays this way until 1948

H. vs 27

1. 69 weeks have been fulfilled on God's prophetic calendar / there is one week (7 years) left
2. The most common understanding of this 7 years is called the tribulation
 - a) There is 483 years from the rebuild to Jesus, Israel will be scattered, the gospel will be preached, and then the end will come
 - b) The end will begin with a man (antichrist) brokering a 7 year covenant of peace in the middle east
 - c) Halfway through he will break the peace and great tribulation will be poured out on earth
 - d) Jesus will return at the end of this 7 years

III. Conclusion

- A. This seems like we are filling in a lot of blanks here, where else is this mentioned?
 1. These 7 years are the topic of Revelation 6-22
 2. Also, **Matthew 24:15-31**
 - a) When Daniel read prophecy about the future, he prayed
 - b) When we read prophecy about the future, we should pray

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- B. The only natural response a Christian has to God's faithfulness is to pray that it covers the whole earth
 - 1. God says that He is faithful to the very end, we want to see that everywhere
- C. Pray: God come quickly! Fix this mess! Save us! Raise our loved ones! Unite heaven and earth! Make earth your home!