

DOCTRINE OF DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS

I. Scripture: Dan.9:24-27.

II. Background to the revelation.

- A. It takes place at the end of the 70 years of Babylonian captivity, Dan.9:1 (around 538BC, in the first year of Darius).
- B. The time of the vision is 538BC, about 67 years after the first fall of Jerusalem in 605BC when Daniel was captured.
- C. It occurred after Daniel had his 70year breakthrough while studying Jeremiah, Jer.25:11,12; 29:10,14.
- D. It occurred while Daniel was praying for his nation, Dan.9:4-19; cf. Lev.26.
- E. It was revealed by 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.

IV. The term "weeks" refers to years of 360 days each (common ancient calendar).

- A. Hebrew שִׁבְעָה shav: seven.
- B. Israel had both a seven of days (weekly Sabbath) and a Sabbatical Year in a seven of years, Lev.25:3,4.
- C. Days renders the prophecy absurd.
- D. Besides, Daniel's breakthrough involves a seven of years, Dan.9:2.
- E. The 70 seven's of Dan.9 are equal to 490 years of 360 days each.

V. The 490 year period began March 5, 444BC, when Artaxerxes decreed to rebuild Jerusalem, Neh.1:14; 2:1; Dan.9:25.

- A. This decree is not to be confused with the decree to rebuild the temple, Ezr.1:1,2; 4:15,11-24; 6:15,14,15; 7:11,20,27.

VI. The 69th week of years (483 years) ended, to the day, when Messiah rode up to Jerusalem in fulfillment of Zech.9:9.

- A. It was the 173,880th day, or March 30, 33AD, on a Monday.
- B. Jesus recognized that day as His formal rejection by the nation, Lk.19:42.
- C. The day was the very last day of the 69th week. After that, the prophecy said Messiah would be cut off.
- D. The things producing prosperity are mentioned in Dan.9:24,25.
- E. Ignorance of this led to the nation's destruction, Lk.19:44.

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.
- D. To Daniel and other prophets, this gap presented a problem, 1Pet.1:11.
- E. The existence of the present dispensation 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. The Church will not go through this period, Rev.3:10.
- B. For purposes of analysis, the Tribulation (the 70th week) is divided into 2 halves of 1,260 days each, Dan.9:27; Rev.12:14; 11:2,3; 13:5; 12:16.
- C. The Antichrist will make a 7year pact with Israel in the middle of the week.
- D. This pact is in response to America's nuclear annihilation and Russia's threats to Israel.

- E. Israel will be disciplined for making a "*covenant with death*", Isa.28:15.
- F. For protection, Israel must accept the Antichrist as God, 2Thess.2:4; Rev.13.
- G. He will be destroyed by the Lord Jesus Christ at the Second Advent, Dan.9:27; 2Thess.2:8.

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