

Sunday, November 19, 2023

1 Timothy 4:13, “Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”

Title: The Times of the Gentiles ... Part 2

- Daniel's Seventy Weeks

Series: Learning About the End Times ... 5

Text: Daniel 9

Purpose: I want to PERSUADE my congregation of the significance of the Seventy Weeks of Daniel to our individual and corporate faith and to the events of the end times and the return of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Introduction:

Last week's devotional was entitled, “The Times of the Gentiles.” We reviewed two prophecies recorded by Daniel, one in Chapter 2 and the second in Chapter 7.

1) Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar's Dream; 2) Daniel 7, Daniel's Vision

~ Luke 21:24, “*They will fall by the edge of the sword and be led captive among the nations, and Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.*” See Romans 11:25

~ Leviticus 26:40, “*But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers in their treachery that they committed against me, and also in walking contrary to me, (41) so that I walked contrary to them and brought them into the land of their enemies—if then their uncircumcised heart is humbled and they make amends for their iniquity, (42) then I will remember my covenant with Jacob, and I will remember my covenant with Isaac and my covenant with Abraham, and I will remember the land.*”

Isaiah 11:11 – 12 speaks of a SECOND regathering!

~ Jeremiah 29:10 – 12, “*For thus says the LORD: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place, (11) For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. (12) Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.*”

1. Daniel 9 The Vision of the Seventy Weeks:

~ vs. 1, “In the first year of Darius...” historically this is approximately 539 B.C.

~ vs. 2 This is the first time Daniel uses Yehova, the covenant name for God. See vs. 4, 8, 10, 13, 14 & 20

~ vs. 3 – 19; Daniel confesses the sins of Israel and Judah

~ vs. 20 – 23; Gabriel (an angel) comes to Daniel in response to his repentant confession.

~ vs. 24 – 27; Gabriel informs Daniel that (vs. 24) “Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city” Notice this time period centers around Israel and Jerusalem. That is why Israel and Jerusalem are an international ‘hot potato.’

~ This is a period of 70 times 7 (weeks is 7) = 490 years

~ The time period is apportioned into three units.

2. Daniel 9:25, The First Unit:

~ vs. 25, “*Know and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem*”

~ Many Bible scholars believe that this was historically fulfilled by Artaxerxes in 445 – 444 B.C. empowering Nehemiah, his cup-bearer (whose name means Yehova comforts), to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the city walls and gates.

~ This would be a period of 7 times 7 years = 49 years

3. Daniel 9:26, The Second Unit:

~ vs. 26, “*And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing. And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. Its end shall come with a flood, and to the end there shall be war. Desolations are decreed.*”

~ Taking the 62 times 7 = 434 plus 49 from the first unit is 483. The ancient Jewish calendar was based on 360 days; from the decree of Artaxerxes in 445 – 444 B.C. would take us to approximately 30 A.D.. The time of our Lord Jesus Christ; his crucifixion and the resurrection. This is way beyond coincidence!

~ The people that came and destroyed the Temple that Zerubbabel built and the city rebuilt by Nehemiah were the Roman Empire.

~ Remember the prophecies of Daniel 2 and 7; Daniel 2 was historically fulfilled with the Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman empires followed by the future rule of Messiah. Daniel 7 records the same four empires: Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greek and Roman. Daniel is shown a future fifth empire that arises out of the old Roman empire; this is the rule of the antichrist! Daniel also sees the future rule of Messiah!

~ Galatians 4:4 – 5, “*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, (5) to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive the adoption as sons.*”

Conclusion:

Next week we will examine the last of seventy weeks as it requires more attention as it, unlike the first two units is all future. It, being future, requires serious consideration is we are speculating about future events rather than looking through a historical lens.