

Lesson 78

The Seventy Weeks of Daniel (end)

- *'Daniel, there are 490 years left,'* God said, even though 2,500 years have already passed. How can the prophecy not have been fulfilled? As we will see below, this prophecy is significant because it involves numbers and dates. Prophecy is not merely an account of something that will happen.
- God now gives Daniel a sign: ⇒ **Daniel 9:25**
Therefore, from the issuance of the decree concerning the Anointed One, there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks, or sixty-nine weeks in total. God gave Daniel a sign of when he could start counting the 490 years: *'From now on, Daniel, 490 years for all this to happen.'*
- *'Since the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem':* This refers to the decree to rebuild Jerusalem, not the temple. Only one decree authorized Jew in Babylon to rebuild Jerusalem.

⇒ **Nehemiah 2:1~8;** King Artaxerxes' decree to Nehemiah

- **V.1:** Nehemiah was the cupbearer of King Artaxerxes. According to the law of that kingdom, no one could be sad in the presence of the king. If they were, they would be beheaded. Nehemiah never appeared sad in the king's presence.
- **V.2:** When the king looked at Nehemiah and noticed his sadness, Nehemiah became *'dreadfully afraid.'*
- **V.3~4;** *'I prayed to the God of heaven...'* After the king asked him a question, Nehemiah immediately prayed to God; it is the fastest prayer mentioned in the Bible. God provides urgent answers, no matter our situation. Learn from Nehemiah and cry out to the Lord immediately in times of trouble.
- **V.5~8;** *'And the king granted ...'*; why? Let's read together: *'according to the good hand of my God upon me..'*

⇒ **Proverbs 21:1**

God inclines the king's heart toward his people. Instead of having his head cut off, Nehemiah has permission to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem and receives all the necessary materials. That is our God! Yet we are afraid to ask God for anything.

- This was the only decree for the reconstruction of the walls of Jerusalem and note that the date was specified. It is an example of God's care.
'It happened in the month of Nisan, in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes.' It is easy to determine the date. On the first day of Nisan (also called Abib), in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes, the order to rebuild Jerusalem was issued. What did the prophecy of the seventy weeks say? *'From the going forth of the command...'*
This *'from'* indicates that the counting of the 490 years began. How do we define that date on our calendar? For the Jewish people, God determined the date when they left Egypt and instituted the first Passover: *'On the 14th day of the month of Abib.'*
That month would mark the beginning of the year. Therefore, a day and month were marked on the Jewish calendar. From that date on, the history of the Jewish people can be studied chronologically.

- Based on this date, the exact date on the Jewish calendar when the people departed from Egypt can be determined and converted to our calendar. Therefore, the first day of Nisan in the twentieth year of King Artaxerxes corresponds to March 14, 445 BCE. On this day, the remaining 490 years of God's plan for Israel began.
- God will now explain the 490-year period to Daniel..

⇒ **Daniel 9:25**

'From the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks..'

V.27 also says, *'he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week,'* which refers to the future. Do you understand? Seven weeks plus sixty-two weeks plus one week equals seventy weeks, or **seventy weeks of years**.

Seven weeks of years correspond to 49 years, and 62 weeks correspond to 434 years. Together, they equal 483 years *'until the Messiah the Prince.'*

The Jewish calendar is lunar, and each month corresponds to 30 days, as proven by the chronology of the flood. Considering a year with twelve months and the correction for the sun (*our leap year*), we can determine the future date.

Therefore, if we talk in terms of days instead of years, we can determine the date when the 69 weeks of years end. Given that the order to begin the period was given on March 14, 445 BCE, and considering the number of days in 483 years, we arrive at April 6, 32 A.D., *'until the Messiah the Prince,'* who is Jesus.

- Why two titles: *'the Messiah – anointed one'* and *'the Prince'*? So that there would be no doubt about who this person is: Jesus is the Anointed One, or the Messiah in Hebrew. That is Jesus's title.

What event does the date *'until the Messiah, the anointed one, the Prince'* correspond to? The birth of Jesus? Or his death? No, it corresponds to the day Jesus presented himself as king to Israel. This occurred before the crucifixion. Therefore, the 490 years began to be counted *'from the going forth of the command to rebuild Jerusalem'*, and 483 years would be fulfilled when the anointed prince appeared. What day was that?

- Jesus always left the crowd after his sermons and miracles. He did this because the people wanted to acclaim him as king. Why did Jesus act this way? Because a day had been set aside for that purpose.

⇒ **Zechariah 9:9**; *'Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.'*

⇒ **Luke 19:28~44**

- **V.38~40**; *'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!...' 'Teacher, rebuke Your disciples.'*

Why did the Pharisees ask Jesus this question? Because only to the Messiah could say such words. The Pharisees were frightened because those words were blasphemous if addressed to anyone other than the Messiah. *'Rebuke your disciples!'* the Pharisees said. What did Jesus answer?

- **V.40**: *'I tell you that if these should keep silent, the stones would immediately cry out.'*
- **V.41~44**: *'If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace!'* On this day, today, even today.

- Jesus never allowed himself to be acclaimed as king by the people of Israel, (*for they truly rejected the Messiah*). Jesus always shied away, but on this day he sent for the little donkey. Thus, the prophecy of ⇒ **Zechariah 9:9** was fulfilled when Jesus allowed himself to ride on the donkey. This was a great tribute reserved only for the kings of Israel. The people proclaimed the words that could only be said to the king, to the Messiah: *'Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord.'* This is why the prophecy in Daniel says, *'Until the Messiah, the Prince.'*
- That day was April 6, 32 CE. The 69th of the 70 weeks spoken of in Daniel's prophecy ended there. *'From the going forth of the command to restore Jerusalem until the anointed one, the prince.'* Jesus only presented himself as king and prince on that day. That is why **V.42** says, *'the things that make for your peace! (The one who could bring peace!)* Jesus is the Prince of Peace.
When the Pharisees asked Jesus to silence his disciples, he replied, *'If they keep quiet, the stones would immediately cry out.'* The scriptures were being fulfilled there. Jesus was officially offering himself to Israel as their Messiah, their Prince, and their King. He was riding on a donkey as the prophecy of Zechariah said, in a humble manner.
Remember this well: On that day, the 69th week of Daniel's 70 weeks ended. *'If only you knew today,* even today. Today, on that day, Jesus presented himself as the Prince, the Anointed One.

⇒ Daniel 9:25

- *'Until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;* The angel gave Daniel more details about what the seven and sixty-two weeks would be like. *'The street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.'*
It took seven weeks, or 49 years, to rebuild Jerusalem, and it was a very difficult time. If we study the Book of Nehemiah, we see that the men of Judah worked with shovels in one hand and weapons in the other. Their enemies destroyed what they rebuilt during the day at night. Reconstructing Jerusalem was difficult.

⇒ Daniel 9:26

- *'And after the sixty-two weeks...'* After sixty-two weeks, with the previous seven weeks, sixty-nine weeks were completed. So, after the sixty-nine weeks were fulfilled, what would happen next?
- *'Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself...'* Note that here it already speaks of something happening outside the period of the 70 weeks. An interval opened up between the 69th week and the fulfillment of the last week. Here it says that the sixty-nine weeks were fulfilled and then two things would happen:
 - 1st. *Messiah shall be cut off (death), but not for Himself.'* This refers to the death of Jesus.
 - 2nd. *'And the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.'*
Who destroyed Jerusalem? It was the Romans.

- Then, after the sixty-nine weeks were fulfilled, two things happened: the anointed one was killed, and the city and sanctuary were destroyed.
Jesus entered Jerusalem as a king, but he was soon despised and killed. The prophecy that *'the Messiah shall be cut off'* was fulfilled.
In 70 CE, General Titus (*who was not yet emperor*) entered Israel with Roman armies and destroyed Jerusalem. The city was inundated with troops and blood. History tells us that blood flowed from the dead; pregnant women were torn apart; Jews were cut down; and blood ran down the stairs. History recounts the horrific details of this invasion.
- After Jesus offered himself as king, the sixty-nine weeks ended. Then, **V.26** shows that there was a gap until the seventieth week. Jesus was killed, Jerusalem and the sanctuary were destroyed, and we are still in that interval until the remaining week of God's program for Israel is fulfilled.
- After Jerusalem was destroyed, the people of Israel were scattered among other nations. Israel did not possess its land until 1948, so how could this program be completed? According to prophecy, seven years remain; one week of a year is missing.
- Note ⇒ **Daniel 9:26**: *'And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.'* It was the people who destroyed the city and the sanctuary, not the prince (*who is yet to come*). Consider how many details this prophecy contains.
Our belief that the Roman Empire is resurging and that the Antichrist will come from it is based on this prophecy: *'The people of a prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.'* Which people destroyed Jerusalem and tore down the temple? The people of the Roman Empire. The prince of these people has yet to come. Proof that the prince has not yet come is that what is said in **V.27** has never happened, nor could it happen.

⇒ Daniel 9:27

- For everything the future prince will do to pass, the city of Jerusalem and the temple must be rebuilt. The temple was destroyed by the Roman people and has never been rebuilt. Only in the Temple can sacrifices and offerings be made. Have you realized that this has not yet happened?
- So, the angel gave Daniel a *'tip'*: The prince who will come at the end of time to complete the missing week will come from the people who destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. We know these people were the Romans.
- When do the missing seven years begin? What else is at stake in the conflict between Jews and Arabs in the Middle East? Peace. Consider how **V.27** begins: *'Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week...'*
When the Antichrist signs a peace treaty between Arabs and Jews, the countdown to the remaining 7 years will begin. Thankfully, we will not be here to see it all!

- What will this prince do after three and a half years? *'But in the middle of the week, he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. and on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate.'*

⇒ **Matthew 24:15~21**; Matthew 24 is a summary of the tribulation.

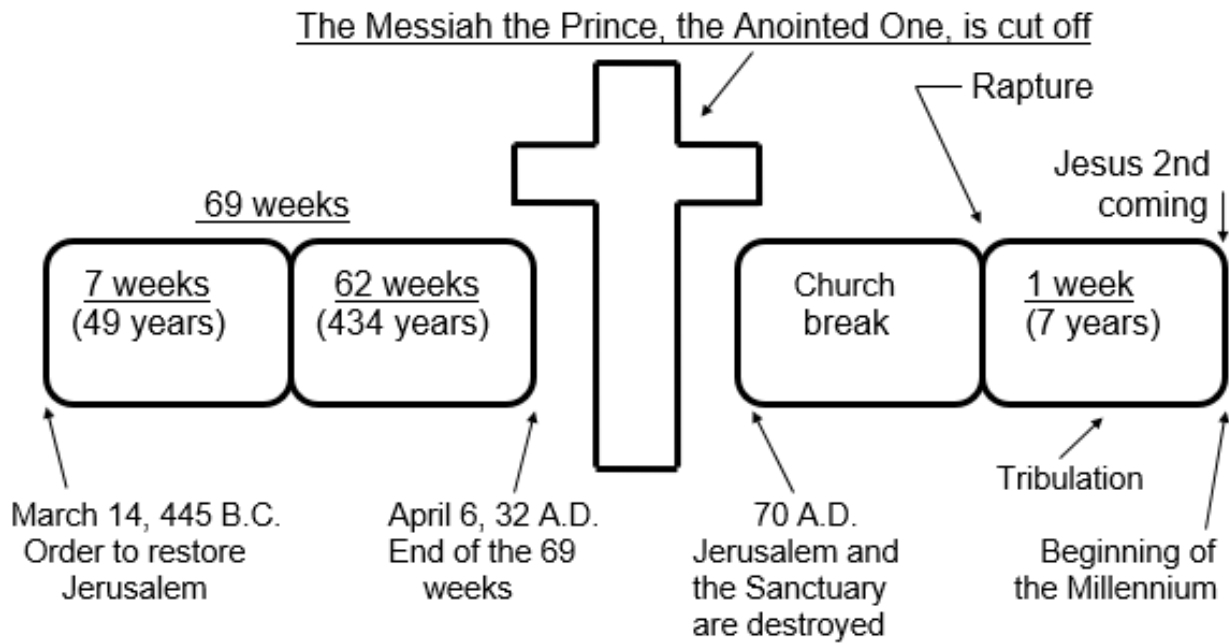
- **V.15**: *'Therefore when you see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (whoever reads, let him understand).'* Where is the holy place? In the temple.
- **V.16~22**; Therefore, when you see the abomination of desolation in the temple, flee! This is the Great Tribulation, the beginning of the final 3.5 years. It's as if the wolf in sheep's clothing has taken off its mask and revealed its claws.
- Until halfway through the Tribulation, the world will worship the Antichrist. The peace he will achieve has never been seen before, and the Jews will think he is the Messiah. Jesus said: *'I came in my Father's name, and you did not receive me. But another will come in his own name, and you will receive him.'*

⇒ **2 Thessalonians 2:1~4**

- **V.4** *'he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.'* When this happens, the Jews who truly belong to God will realize he is not the Messiah. Then, the Antichrist breaks the peace pact and begins the Great Tribulation – a persecution of Israel unlike anything ever seen before. This will become evident when the Antichrist enters the temple and demands to be worshiped as God. Remember the beginning of the course: *'And I will be like the Most High.'*
- With the onset of persecution, the Gospel of the Kingdom, which will be preached to the Jews at that time, will carry the message, ⇒ **Matthew 24 'Flee!'** When you see the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel in the middle of the last week, flee and do not look back.

⇒ **Revelation 12:13~17**

- Here, we can understand why we should flee. ⇒ **Revelation 12** summarizes Satan's hatred and persecution of Israel, (*we will study in detail later*).
 - **V.13**: the woman is Israel, and the male child is Jesus.
 - **V.14**: Out of Satan's sight, many Jews who obeyed the message in ⇒ **Matthew 24 (flee)** went to the prepared place in the desert and stayed there for 3.5 years.
 - **V.15~17**; Satan will try to catch them, but he will not succeed. Then, he will return and persecute those who did not flee but who also belong to Jesus. That is why ⇒ **Matthew 24** says, *'Flee!'*



- Seventy weeks, divided into three parts:
 - 1st. 7 weeks; 49 years
 - 2nd. 62 weeks, or 434 years.
 - 3rd. 1 week; 7 years – total of which 483 years have already been fulfilled.
- After 483 years, the Messiah was killed and Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed. Then, an interval began during which the Church was formed. The Church was never prophesied in the Old Testament. It is being formed. After the rapture, God will return to deal with Israel because 7 years remain in God's plan for Israel.
- This is Daniel's prophecy of the 70 weeks. The Tribulation is the 7-year period remaining for the prophecy's complete fulfillment. How will this period end? What is the purpose of Jesus' return? He returns to extinguish transgressions, put an end to sins, atone for iniquity, bring eternal justice, seal the vision and prophecy, and then be anointed the Holy of Holies. Isn't the accuracy of this prophecy impressive? Hallelujah!