

WELCOME TO THE FUTURE -NOW-

[PART 31]

DANIEL'S 70TH WEEK ~
FULFILLED OR FUTURE?

Reading: **Daniel 9:1 - 3 & 24 - 27**

Introduction

- Bible prophecy: Two opposing views - **Historicist** vs **Futurism**.
- The older '**Historicist**' view says Daniel's 70th week is **PAST** having been **FULFILLED**.
- The '**Futurist**' view claims that it is still **FUTURE**.

1 The Seventy Weeks

- Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonians had exiled the Jews to Babylon.
- Daniel had been exiled to Babylon as a teenager.
- He is wondering will the Jews ever get to return to their national homeland and if so, **WHEN?**
- [Jeremiah 25:11/12 and 29:10] reveals the captivity was to last 70 years.
- He realises the end of the captivity is near.
- His response is to pray.
- In [vs 3] we're told **HOW** he prayed.
- In [vs 4 - 19] we're told **WHAT** he prayed.
- In [vs 20 - 23] Gabriel visits Daniel giving him the '**70 week vision.**'

NB Chapter begins with 70 literal years and ends with 70 prophetic weeks.

2 The Composition Of The 70 Weeks

- The '**70 week**' period is a **PROPHETIC TIME PERIOD**.
- It is made up of 3 different amounts of time.
- 1st portion is 7 weeks, the 2nd is 62 weeks and the 3rd is 1 week.
- We need a couple of keys to unlock the meaning of the 70 weeks.
- First key: 1 prophetic day = 1 literal year. [Ezekiel 4:6].
- First portion: 7 prophetic weeks = 49 prophetic days = 49 literal years.
- Second portion: 62 prophetic weeks = 434 prophetic days = 434 literal years.
- Third portion: 1 prophetic week = 7 prophetic days = 7 literal years.

NB 49 years followed by 434 years followed by 7 years.

3 When Do The Seventy Weeks/490 Years Start?

- This is the 2nd key we need.
- [Vs 25] It begins with the command/decreed of the king for the Jews to go forth to rebuild Jerusalem.
- This was the decree of king Artaxerxes in 457 BC. (See Ezra 7:11 - 13).

4 The First Two Sections

- Beginning with year 457BC + 49 years (1st period) = 408BC.
- Nehemiah confirms Jerusalem was rebuilt **'in troublesome times.'**
- 408BC + 434 years (2nd period) = 27AD. **"until Messiah the Prince."**
- This 2nd period ends with the baptism/anointing of Jesus and start of His ministry.
- [Mark 1:14] **"The time is fulfilled."** The time of the 2nd portion of prophetic weeks.

5 The 70th Week

- Both historicists and futurists agree up to this point.
- They differ vastly on the last week (the 70th).
- The historicist say it follows immediately after the closing of the 69th week.
- The futurists say there is **A GAP** which is currently some 2000 years (the church age).
- They argue it begins with the secret rapture of the church and will last 7 years ending with Jesus coming with His church and setting up His Kingdom.
- We believe this is a great error.

NB In [vs 24] 5 promises are made and they all had their fulfilment when Christ died on the cross.

- **'to finish the transgressions'** [Isaiah 53:5].
- **'to make an end of sin.'** [Hebrews 9: 26]
- **'to make reconciliation for iniquity'** [Ephesians 2:16]
- **'to bring in everlasting righteousness'** [2 Corinthians 5:21]
- **'to anoint the Most Holy'** [Luke 4:17 - 19].

NB The remainder of the verse relates to destruction of Jerusalem in AD70.

- [vs 27] **"Then He shall confirm a covenant with many..."**
- The Lord Jesus is the subject of the verse.
- By His death He establishes **'the new covenant.'** [Jeremiah 31:31] & [Matthew 26:28].
- This is NOT a covenant of an imagined antichrist with the Jews in the future.
- **"In the middle of the week..."** by His death He brings **"an end to"** the sacrificial system. **"It is finished."**
- For the remainder of the 70th week the Pentecostal church preaches the gospel to the Jews.
- At the end of the 70th week the church is released to take the gospel to the rest of the world.

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Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle 837-869 Shore Road Belfast BT15 4HS
Tel: 028 9077 7074 Email: info@whitewell.church
www.whitewell.church